THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET Prince of Denmark.

As it is now Acted at his Highneſs the Duke of *York*'s Theatre.

BY

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.



LONDON:

Printed by *Andr. Clark*, for *J. Martyn*, and *H. Herringman*, at the Bell in St. *Paul*'s Church-Yard, and at the Blue Anchor in the lower Walk of the *New Exchange*, 1676.

To the Reader.

THis Play being too long to be conveniently Acted, ſuch Places as might be leaſt prejudicial to the Plot or Senſe, are left out upon the Stage: but that we may no way wrong the incomparable Author, are here inſerted according to the Original Copy, with this Mark "

The Persons Represented.

Claudius, King of *Denmark*,	Mr. *Crosby.*
Hamlet, Son to the former King,	Mr. *Betterton.*
Horatio, *Hamlet*'s Friend,	Mr. *Smith.*
Marcellus, an Officer.	Mr. *Lee.*
Polonius, Lord Chamberlain,	Mr. *Noake.*
Voltimand.	
Cornelius.	
Laertes, Son to *Polonius*,	Mr. *Young.*
Reynaldo,	
Rosincrans, } Two Courtiers.	Mr. *Nixxis.*
Guildenstern, }	Mr. *Cademan.*
Cum aliis.	
Lucianus.	
Fortinbrass, King of *Norway*,	Mr. *Percival.*
Ostrick, a fantastical Courtier.	Mr. *Jevon.*
Barnardo, } Two Centinels,	Mr. *Rathband.*
Francisco, }	Mr. *Floyd.*
Ghost of *Hamlet*'s Father,	Mr. *Medburn.*
Two Grave-makers,	Mr. *Undril.* Mr. *Williams.*
Gertrard, Queen of *Denmark*,	Mrs. *Shadwel.*
Ophelia, in love with *Hamlet*,	Mrs. *Betterton.*

THE

THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET PRINCE of *DENMARK*.

ACT I. SCENE I.

Enter Barnardo *and* Franciſco, *two Sentinels.*

Bar. WHo's there?

Fran. Nay anſwer me, ſtand and unfold your ſelf.

Bar. Long live the King.

Fran. Barnardo?

Bar. He.

Fran. You come moſt carefully upon your hour.

Bar. 'Tis now ſtrook twelve: get thee to bed *Franciſco.*

Fran. For this relief much thanks, 'tis bitter cold,
And I am ſick at heart.

Bar. Have you had quiet guard?

Fran. Not a Mouſe ſtirring.

Bar. Well, good night:
If you do meet *Horatio* and *Marcellus*,
The rivals of my watch, bid them make haſte.

Enter Horatio *and* Marcellus.

Fran. I think I hear them. Stand ho: who is there?

Hora. Friends to this ground.

Mar. And Liegemen to the *Dane.*

Fran. Good night.

Mar. O farewel honeſt Souldiers; who has relieved you?
Fran. *Barnardo* has my place: good night. *Exit Fran.*
Mar. Holla, *Barnardo*.
Bar. Say, what is *Horatio* there?
Hora. A piece of him.
Bar. Welcome *Horatio*, welcome good *Marcellus*.
Hora. What has this thing appear'd again to night?
Bar. I have ſeen nothing.
Mar. *Horatio* ſays 'tis but a phantaſie,
And will not let belief take hold of him,
Touching this dreaded ſight twice ſeen of us;
Therefore I have entreated him along,
With us to watch the minutes of this night,
" That if again this Apparition come,
" He may approve our Eyes and ſpeak to it.
" *Hora.* 'Twill not appear.
Bar. Sit down a while,
And let us once again aſſail your ears
That are ſo fortified againſt our ſtory,
What we have two nights ſeen.
Hora. Well, let's down,
And let us hear *Barnardo* ſpeak of this.
Bar. Laſt night of all,
When yond ſame Star that's Weſtward from the Pole,
Had made his courſe to enlighten that part of Heaven
Where now it burns, *Marcellus* and my ſelf,
The Bell then beating one.

Enter Ghoſt.

Mar. Peace, Break thee off, look where it comes again.
Bar. In the ſame Figure, like the King that's dead.
Mar. Thou art a Scholar, ſpeak to it *Horatio*.
Hor. Moſt like, it ſtartles me with fear and wonder.
Bar. It would be ſpoke to.
Mar. Speak to it *Horatio*.
Hora. What art thou that uſurpeſt this time of night,
Together with that fair and Warlike form,
In which the Majeſty of buried *Denmark*
Did ſometimes march? I charge thee ſpeak.
Mar. It is offended.
Bar. See, it ſtalks away.
Hor. Stay, ſpeak, ſpeak, I charge thee ſpeak. [*Exit Ghoſt.*
Mar. 'Tis gone and will not anſwer.
Bar. How now *Horatio?* you tremble and look pale:
Is not this ſomething more than phantaſie?

What

What think you of it?

Hora. I could not believe this,
Without the ſenſible and true avouch
Of mine own eyes.

Mar. Is it not like the King?

Hor. As thou art to thy ſelf:
Such was the very Armor he had on,
When he th' ambitious *Norway* combated.
" So frown'd he once, when in an angry Parle.
" He ſmote the ſleaded Poll-ax on the Ice.
'Tis ſtrange.

Mar. Thus twice before, and at the ſame hour,
With martial ſtalk hath he gone by our wath.

Hor. In what particular thought to work I know not,
But in the ſcope of mine opinion,
This bodes ſome ſtrange eruption to our State.

Mar. Pray ſit down and tell me, he that knows,
Why this ſame ſtrict and moſt obſervant watch
So nighly toils the ſubject of the land,
' And with ſuch daily coſt of braſen Canon,
' And foreign Mart for implements of War?
' Why ſuch impreſs of Ship-wrights, whoſe ſore task
' Does not divide the Sunday from the Week?
' What might be toward, that this ſweaty haſte
' Makes the night joynt labor with the day?
' Who is't that can inform me?

Hora. That can I:
' At leaſt the whiſper goes ſo.—Our laſt King,
Whoſe image even but now appear'd to us,
Was, as you know, by *Fortinbraſs* of *Norway*,
' Thereto prickt on by a moſt emulate pride,
Dar'd to the combat; in which our valiant *Hamlet*,
' For (ſo this ſide of our known World eſteem'd him)
Did ſlay this *Fortinbraſs*, who by a ſeal'd compact,
Well ratified by Law and Heraldry,
Did forfeit (with his life) all theſe his lands,
' Which he ſtood ſeiz'd of, to the Conqueror:
' Againſt the which a moiety competent
' Was gaged by our King, which had returned
' To the inheritance of *Fortinbraſs*,
' Had he been Vanquiſher: as by the ſame compact,
' And carriage of the Articles deſign,
' His ſell to *Hamlet*: now ſir, young *Fortinbraſs*
' Of unimproved metal, hot, and full,

Hath in the skirts of *Norway* here and there
Sharkt up a liſt of lawleſs reſolutes,
'For food and diet to ſome enterpriſe
'That hath a ſtomack in't, which is no other
'As it doth well appear unto our ſtate,
'But to recover of us by ſtrong hand
'And terms compulſatory, thoſe foreſaid lands
So by his Father loſt: ,, and this I take it
Is the main motive of our preparations,
'The ſource of this our watch, and the chief head
'Of this poſt-haſte, and romage in the land.
Bar. I think it be no other but even ſo:
Well may it ſort that this portentous Figure
Comes armed through our Watch ſo like the King,
That was and is the queſtion of theſe Wars.
'*Hora.* A mote it is to trouble the minds eye.
'In the moſt high and flouriſhing ſtate of *Rome*,
'A little e're the mightieſt *Julius* fell,
'The graves ſtood tenantleſs, and the ſheeted dead
'Did ſqueak and gibber in the *Roman* ſtreets,
'As ſtars with trains of fire, and dews of blood,
'Diſaſters in the Sun, and the moiſt Star,
'Upon whoſe influence *Neptunes* Empire ſtands,
'Was ſick almoſt to Doomſday with eclipſe,
'And even the like precurſe of fierce events,
'As harbingers preceding ſtill the Fates
'And Prologue to the *Omen* coming on,
'Have Heaven and Earth together demonſtrated
'Unto our Climatures and Countrymen. [*Enter Ghoſt.*
But ſoft, behold! lo where it comes again,
I'le croſs it though it blaſt me; Stay illuſion, [*He ſpreads his arms.*
If thou haſt any ſound, or uſe of voice,
Speak to me: if there be any good thing to be done,
That may to thee do eaſe, and grace to me,
Speak to me.
If thou art privy to thy Countries fate,
Which happily foreknowing may avoid,
O ſpeak:
Or if thou haſt up-hoorded in thy life
Extorted treaſure in the womb of Earth,
For which they ſay your Spirits oft walk in death, [*The cock crows.*
Speak of it, ſtay and ſpeak; ſtop it *Marcellus.*
Mar. Shall I ſtrike it with my Partiſan?
Hor. Do if it will not ſtand.

Bar. 'Tis

Bar. 'Tis here.
Hor. 'Tis here.
Mar. 'Tis gone. *Exit Ghost.*
We do it wrong being ſo majeſtical,
To offer it the ſhew of violence;
It is ever as the air, invulnerable,
And our vain blows malicious mockery.
Bar. It was about to ſpeak when the Cock crew,
Hor. And then it ſtarted like a guilty thing
Upon a fearful ſummons: I have heard,
The Cock, that is the trumpet to the Morn,
Doth with his lofty and ſhrill ſounding throat
Awake the god of Day; and at his warning,
Whether in ſea or fire, in earth or air,
Th' extravagant and erring ſpirit hyes
To his confine; "and of the truth herein
'This preſent object made probation.
Mar. It faded at the crowing of the Cock.
'Some ſay that ever 'gainſt that ſeaſon comes,
'Wherein our Saviours birth is celebrated,
'This bird of dawning ſingeth all night long,
'And then they ſay no Spirit dares ſtir abroad,
'The nights are wholeſome; then no Planets ſtrike,
'No Fairy takes, no Witch hath power to charm;
'So hallowed and ſo gracious is that time.
'*Hor.* So have I heard, and do in part believe it:
But look, the Morn in ruſſet mantle clad
Walks o're the dew of yon high Eaſtern hill:
Break we our watch up, and by my advice
Let us impart what we have ſeen to night
Unto young *Hamlet*; perhaps
This Spirit dumb to us will ſpeak to him.
'Do you conſent we ſhall acquaint him with it,
'As needful in our loves, fitting our duty?
Mar. Let's do't, I pray; and I this morning know
Where we ſhall find him moſt convenient. [*Exeunt.*

Flouriſh. Enter Claudius *King of* Denmark, Gertrad *the Queen, Council, as* Polonius, *and his Son* Laertes, Hamlet, *cum aliis.*

King. Though yet of *Hamlet* our dear brothers death
The memory be green, and that it us befitted
To bear our hearts in grief, and our whole Kingdom
To be contracted in one brow of woe:

Yet ſo far hath diſcretion fought with nature,
That we with wiſeſt ſorrow think on him,
Together with remembrance of our ſelves.
Therefore our ſometime Siſter, now our Queen,
Th'Imperial Jointreſs to this Warlike State,
Have we as 'twere with a defeated joy,
" With an auſpicious and a dropping eye,
" With mirth in Funeral, and with dirge in Marriage,
" In equal ſcale weighing delight and dole,
Taken to Wife, nor have we herein barr'd
Your better wiſdoms, which have freely gone
With this affair along (for all our thanks)
" Now follows that you know, young *Fortinbraſs*,
" Holding a weak ſuppoſal of our worth,
" Or thinking by our late dear brothers death
" Our ſtate to be diſ-joynt, and out of frame,
" Colleagued with this dream of his advantage,
" He hath not fail'd to peſter us with meſſage,
" Importing the ſurrender of thoſe lands
" Loſt by his Father, with all bands of Law,
" To our moſt valiant brother. So much for him.
" Now for our ſelf, and for this time of meeting,
" Thus much the buſineſs is, we have here writ
" To *Norway*, Uncle of young *Fortinbraſs*,
" Who impotent and bed-rid, ſcarcely hears
" Of this his Nephews purpoſe, to ſuppreſs
" His further gate herein, in that the levies,
" The liſts, and full proportions are all made
" Out of his ſubjects: and we now diſpatch
" You good *Cornelius*, and you *Voltemand*,
" Ambaſſadors to old *Norway*,
" Who have no further perſonal power
" Of Treaty with the King, more than the ſcope
" Of theſe delated Articles allow.
" Farewel, and let your haſte commend your duty.
" *Cor. Vo.* In that and all things will we ſhew our duty.
" *King.* We doubt it nothing: heartily farewel.
Now *Laertes*, what's the news with you?
You told us of ſome ſuit, what is't *Laertes?*
" You cannot ſpeak of reaſon to the *Dane*,
" And loſe your voice: what would'ſt thou beg, *Laertes?*
" That ſhall not be my offer, nor thy asking.
" The head is not more native to the heart,
" The hand more inſtrumental to the mouth,

Than

'Than is the Throne of *Denmark* to thy Father.
'What would'ſt thou have *Laertes*?
Laer. My dear Lord,
Your leave and favor to return to *France*,
From whence though willingly I came to *Denmark*,
To ſhew my duty in your Coronation;
Yet now I muſt confeſs, that duty done,
My thoughts and wiſhes bend again toward *France*,
'And bow them to your gracious leave and pardon.
King. Have you your fathers leave? what ſays *Polonius*?
Pol. He hath, my Lord, wrung from me my ſlow leave,
By laborſome Petition; and at laſt,
Upon his will I ſeal'd my hard conſent.
'I do beſeech you give him leave to go.
King. Take thy fair hour, *Laertes*, time be thine,
And thy beſt graces; ſpend it at thy will.
But now my couſin *Hamlet*, and my Son.
Ham. A little more than kin, and leſs than kind.
King. How is it that the clouds ſtill hang on you?
Ham. Not ſo much, my Lord, I am too much in the Sun.
Queen. Good *Hamlet*, caſt thy nighted colour off,
And let thine eye look like a friend on *Denmark*.
Do not for ever with thy vailed lids
Seek for thy noble father in the duſt;
Thou know'ſt 'tis common all that live muſt die,
Paſſing through nature to eternity.
Ham. I Madam, it is common.
Queen. If it be,
Why ſeems it ſo particular with thee?
Ham. Seems Madam, nay it is, I know not ſeems,
'Tis not alone this Mourning cloke could ſmother,
'Nor cuſtomary ſutes of ſolemn black,
'Nor windy ſuſpiration of forc'd breath,
'No, nor the fruitful river in the eye,
'Nor the dejected haviour of the viſage,
Together with all forms, modes, ſhapes of grief,
That can denote me truly; theſe indeed ſeem,
'For they are actions that a man might play:
But I have that within which paſſes ſhew,
Theſe but the trappings and the ſuits of woe.
King. 'Tis ſweet and commendable in your nature, *Hamlet*,
To give theſe mourning duties to your father.
But you muſt know your father loſt a father;
That father loſt, loſt his, and the ſurvivor bound

In

In filial obligation for some term,
To do obsequious sorrow, but to persevere
In obstinate condolement, dares express
An impious stubbornness; 'tis unmanly grief,
'It shews a will most incorrect to heaven,
'A heart unfortified, or mind impatient,
'An understanding simple and unschool'd:
'For what we know must be, and is as common
'As any the most vulgar thing to sense,
'Why should we in our peevish opposition
'Take it to heart? fie, 'tis a fault to Heaven,
'A fault against the dead, a fault to nature,
'To reason most absurd, whose common theam
'Is death of fathers, and who still hath cried
'From the first corse till he that died to day,
'This must be so: we pray you throw to earth
This unprevailing woe, and think of us
As of a father: and let the world take note
You are the most immediate to our throne,
'And with no less nobility of love
'Than that which dearest father bears his son
'Do I impart toward you for your intent
'In going back to School to *Wittenberg*,
'It is most retrograde to our desire,
'And we beseech you bend you to remain
'Here in the chear and comfort of our eye,
Our chiefest Courtier, coulin, and our son.

Queen. Let not thy mother lose her prayers, *Hamlet.*
I pray thee stay with us, go not to *Wittenberg.*

Ham. I shall in all my best obey you, Madam.

King. 'Tis a loving and a fair reply.
Be as our self in *Denmark.* Madam come,
This gentle and unforc'd accord of *Hamlet*
Sits smiling to my heart, in grace whereof,
No jocund health that *Denmark* drinks to day
But the great Canon to the Clouds shall tell,
'And the Kings rowse the Heaven shall bruit again,
Respeaking Earthly thunder: Come away. [*Flourish, Exeunt all,*

Ham. O that this too too solid flesh would melt, [*but* Hamlet.
Thaw and resolve it self into a dew,
Or that the everlasting had not fixt
His Cannon 'gainst self slaughter!
How weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable
Seem to me all the uses of this world?

'Tis

'Tis an unweeded Garden,
That grows to Seed; things rank and groſs in nature
Poſſeſs it meerly: that it ſhould come thus,
But two Months dead, nay not ſo much, not two;
So excellent a King,
So loving to my Mother,
That he permitted not the Winds of Heaven
Viſit her Face too roughly:
She uſed to hang on him,
As if increaſe of Appetite had grown
By what it fed on; and yet within a Month,
Let me not think on't, Frailty thy Name is Woman,
"A little Month: or e'r thoſe Shooes were old,
"With which ſhe followed my poor Fathers Body,
"Like *Niobe* all Tears, why ſhe,
"Heaven? a Beaſt that wants diſcourſe of Reaſon
"Would have mourn'd longer, ,, Married with my Uncle,
My Fathers Brother; but no more like my Father
Than I to *Hercules*: within a month,
"E're yet the Salt of moſt unrighteous Tears
"Had left the flushing in her galled Eyes,
"She Married. O moſt wicked ſpeed to poſt,
"With ſuch dexterity to inceſtuous ſheets!
"It is not, nor it cannot come to good,
"But break my heart, for I muſt hold my tongue.

Enter Horatio, Marcellus, *and* Barnardo.

Hor. Hail to your Lordſhip

Ham. I am glad to ſee you well; *Horatio*, or I forget my ſelf.

Hora. The ſame my Lord, and your poor ſervant ever.

Ham. Sir my good friend, I'le change that name with you;
And what make you from *Wittenberg*, *Horatio*?
Marcellus.

Mar. My good Lord.

Ham. I am very glad to ſee you (Good Even Sir)
But what make you from *Wittenberg*?

Hora. A Truant diſpoſition, my good Lord.

Ham. I would not hear your Enemy ſay ſo,
Nor ſhall you do my Ear that violence
To be a witneſs of your own report
Againſt your ſelf; I know you are no Truant;
But what is your affair in *Elſenour*?
We'l teach you here to drink e'r you depart.

Hora. My Lord, I came to ſee your Fathers Funeral.

Ham. I prethee do not mock me fellow Student.

I think it waste my Mothers Wedding.
Hor. Indeed my Lord it followd hard upon.
Ham. Thrift, thrift, *Horatio*, the Funeral Bak'd-meats
Did coldly furnish forth the Marriage Tables.
Would I had met my dearest Foe in Heaven
E're I had seen that day *Horatio*.
My Father, methinks I see my Father.
Hora. Where my Lord?
Ham. In my minds Eye *Horatio*.
Hora. I saw him once, he was a goodly King.
Ham. He was a man, take him for all in all,
I shall not look upon his like again.
Hora. My Lord, I think I saw him yesternight.
Ham. Saw who?
Hora. My Lord, the King your father.
Ham. The King my father!
Hora. Defer your admiration but a while
With an attentive Ear, till I may deliver
Upon the witness of these Gentlemen
This wonder to you.
Ham. Pray let me hear.
Hor. Two nights together had these Gentlemen,
Marcellus and *Barnardo*, on their Watch,
"In the dead vast and middle of the night
Been thus encountred: A Figure like your Father,
And Armed exactly, *Cap-a-pe*,
Appears before them, and with solemn march
Goes slow and stately by them: thrice he walkt
By their oppress'd and fear surprized eyes
Within this Truncheons length, whilst they distill'd
Almost to jelly with their fear,
Stand dumb and speak not to him: this to me
They did impart in dreadful secresie,
And I with them the third night kept the Watch.
Whereas they had delivered, both in time,
Form of the thing, each word made true and good,
The apparition comes: "I knew your Father,
"These hands are not more like.
Ham. But where was this?
Mar. My Lord upon the platform where we watcht.
Ham. Did you not speak to it?
Hor. My Lord, I did,
But answer made it none: yet once methought
It lifted up its head, and did address

It

It ſelf to motion, as it would ſpeak;
But even then the morning Cock crew loud,
And at the ſound it ſhrunk in haſte away,
And vaniſht from our ſight.

Ham. 'Tis very ſtrange.

Hor. As I do live, my honour'd Lord, 'tis true,
And we did think it then our duty
To let you know it.

Ham. Indeed Sirs but this troubles me,
Hold you the Watch to night?

All. We do my Lord.

Ham. Arm'd ſay you?

All. Arm'd my Lord.

Ham. From top to toe?

All. From head to foot.

Ham. Then ſaw you not his Face?

Hor. O yes my Lord, he wore his Beaver up.

Ham. What? Lookt he frowningly?

Hor. A Countenance more in ſorrow than in anger.

Ham. Pale or Red?

Hor. Nay very pale.

Ham. And fixt his Eyes upon you?

Hor. Moſt conſtantly.

Ham. I would I had been there.

Hor. It would have much amaz'd you.

Ham. Very like: Staid it long?

Hor. While one with moderate haſte might tell on hundred.

Both. Longer, longer.

Hor. Not when I ſaw't.

Ham. His Beard was grizled?

Hor. It was as I have ſeen it in his life,
A Sable Silver'd.

Ham. I will watch to night,
Perchance 'twill walk again.

Hor. I warr'nt it will.

Ham. If it aſſume my noble Fathers Perſon
I'll ſpeak to it though Hell it ſelf ſhould gape
And bid me hold my peace. I pray you all,
If you have hitherto conceal'd this ſight,
Let it require your ſilence ſtill,
And whatſoever elſe ſhall hap to night,
Give it an Underſtanding, but no Tongue;
I will requite your loves: So fare you well,
Upon the platform 'twixt Eleven and Twelve

I'le visit you.

All. Our Duty to your Honour. [*Exeunt.*

Ham. Your loves as mine to you; Farewel. [*Manet* Hamlet.
My Fathers Spirit in Arms, all is not well
I doubt some foul play, would the night were come:
Till then sit still my Soul, foul deeds will rise,
Though all the Earth o'rwhelm them from Mens Eyes. [*Exit.*

Enter Laertes, *and* Ophelia *his Sister.*

Laer. My necessaries are embark't, farewel,
And Sister, as the Winds give benefit
" And convey in assistant, „ Do not sleep,
But let me hear from you.

Ophel. Do you doubt that?

Laert. For *Hamlet* and the trifling of his favour,
Hold it a fashion, and a toy in Blood,
A Violet in the Youth, a prime of Nature,
Forward, not permanent; sweet, not lasting,
The perfume and suppliance of a minute:
No more.

Ophel. No more but so.

Laer. Think it no more.

" For Nature cressant does not grow alone,
" In Thews and Bulks, but as this Temple waxes,
" The inward service of the Mind and Soul
" Grows wide withal: perhaps he loves you now,
" And now no soil nor cautel doth besmerch
" The virtue of his Will; but you must fear
His Greatness weigh'd, his Will is not his own.
He may not, as inferior persons do,
Bestow himself: for on his choice depends
The safety and health of this whole state,
" And therefore must his choice be circumscrib'd
" Unto the voice and yielding of that Body
" Whereof he is the head; then if he says he loves you,
" It fits your wisdom so far to believe it,
" As he in his particular act and place
" May give his saying deed; which is no further
" Than the main voice of *Denmark* goes withal.
Then weigh what loss your honour may sustain,
If with your credulous Ear you hear his Songs,
" Or lose your Heart, or your chaste Treasure open
" To his unmastred importunity.
Fear it *Ophelia*, fear it my dear Sister,
" And keep you in the rear of your affection,

" Out

" Out of the ſhot and danger of deſire:
" The charieſt Maid is prodigal enough,
" If ſhe unmask her beauty to the Moon:
" Virtue it ſelf ſcapes not calumnious ſtrokes;
" The canker galls the Infant of the Spring
" Too oft before their Buttons be diſclos'd,
" And in the Morn and liquid dew of youth
" Contagious blaſtments are moſt imminent.
" Be wary then, beſt ſafety lies in fear,
" Youth to it ſelf rebells though none elſe near.
Ophel. I ſhall th' effect of this good Leſſon keep
About my Heart: But good Brother,
Do not as ſome ungracious Paſtors do,
Shew me the ſteep and thorny way to Heaven,
Whiles like a Libertine,
Himſelf the primroſe path of dalliance treads,
" And reaks not his own reed. [*Enter* Polonius.
Laer. O fear me not;
I ſtay too long: " but here my Father comes,
" A double Bleſſing is a double Grace,
" Occaſion ſmiles upon a ſecond leave.
Polo. Yet here *Laertes*? aboord, aboord for ſhame,
" The Wind ſits in the ſhoulder of your Sail,
" And you are ſtaid for. There, my bleſſing with thee,
" And theſe few precepts in thy memory
" Look thou character: Give thy thoughts no tongue,
" Nor any unproportion'd thought his act:
" Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar:
" Thoſe friends thou haſt and their adoption tried,
" Grapple them unto thy ſoul with hoops of Steel,
" But do not dull thy palm with entertainment
" Of each new hatch't, unfledg'd courage: beware
" Of entrance to a quarrel, but being in,
" Bear't that the oppoſer may beware of thee:
" Give every man thy Ear, but few thy Voice;
" Take each mans cenſure, but reſerve thy judgment:
" Coſtly thy Habit as thy Purſe can buy,
" But not expreſt in fancy; rich, not gaudy;
" For the Apparel oft proclaims the Man,
" And they in *France* of the beſt rank and ſtation,
" Are of a moſt ſelect and generous, chief in that:
" Neither a borrower nor a lender, Boy,
" For Love oft loſeth both it ſelf and friend,
" And borrowing dulls the edge of Husbandry.

This

" This above all, to thine own ſelf be true,
" And it muſt follow as the night to day,
" Thou canſt not then be falſe to any man.
" Farewel, my Bleſſing ſeaſon this in thee.

Laer. Moſt humbly I do take my leave my Lord.

Pol. The time inveſts you, go, your Servants tend.

Laer. Farewel *Ophelia*, and remember well
What I have ſaid to you.

Ophel. 'Tis in my memory lockt,
And you your ſelf ſhall keep the key of it.

Laer. Farewel. [*Exit* Laertes.

Pol. What is't *Ophelia* he hath ſaid to you?

Ophel. So pleaſe you, ſomething touching the Lord *Hamlet*.

Pol. Marry well bethought.
'Tis told me he hath very oft of late
Given private time to you: and you your ſelf
Have of your Audience been moſt free and bounteous.
If it be ſo, as ſo 'tis put on me,
And that in way of caution, I muſt tell you
You do not underſtand your ſelf ſo clearly
As it behoves my Daughter, and your honour:
What is between you? Give me up the truth.

Ophel. He hath my Lord of late made many tenders
Of his affection to me.

Pol. Affection! Puh, you ſpeak like a green Girl,
Unſifted in ſuch perilous circumſtance:
Do you believe his Tenders, as you call them?

Ophel. I do not know, my Lord, what I ſhould think.

Pol. Marry I will teach you, think your ſelf a Baby.
That you have ta'n theſe Tenders for true pay,
Which are not ſterling: Tender your ſelf more dearly,
Or (not to crack the wind of the poor phraſe)
Wrong it thus, you'll tender me a fool.

Ophel. My Lord, he hath importun'd me with Love
In honourable faſhion.

Pol. I, faſhion you may call it, go too, go too.

Ophel. And hath given countenance to his ſpeech,
My Lord with almoſt all the holy vows of Heaven.

Pol. I, Springes to catch Woodcocks; I know
When the Blood burns how prodigally the Soul
Lends the Tongue Vows, " Theſe blazes Daughter,
" Giving more Light than Heat, extinct in both,
" Even in their promiſe, as it is a making,
" You muſt not tak't for Fire: from this time

Be

" Be ſomething ſcanter of your Maiden preſence,
" Set your intreatments at a higher rate
" Than a Command to parley ; for Lord *Hamlet*,
" Believe ſo much in him, that he is young,
" And with a larger tedder may he walk
" Than may be given you : in few *Ophelia*,
" Do not believe his Vows, for they are Brokers,
" Not of that Dye which their Inveſtments ſhew,
" But meer implorators of unholy ſuits,
" Breathing like ſanctified and pious Bonds,
" The better to beguile : This is for all,
I would not, in plain terms, from this time forth
Have you ſo ſlander any moments leiſure,
As to give words or talk with the Lord *Hamlet*,
Look to't I charge you, come your ways.
Ophel. I ſhall obey my Lord. [*Exeunt.*

Enter Hamlet, Horatio, *and* Marcellus.

Ham. The Air bites ſhrewdly, it is very cold.
Hora. It is a nipping, and an eager Air.
Ham. What hour now?
Hora. I think it lacks of Twelve.
Mar. No, it is ſtruck.
Hora. I heard it not: it then draws near the ſeaſon
Wherein the Spirit held his wont to walk. { *A flouriſh of Trum-*
What does this mean my Lord? { *pets and Guns,*
Ham. The King doth walk to night, and takes his rowſe,
" Keeps waſſel, and the ſwaggering up-ſpring reels,
And as he takes his Draughts of Rheniſh down,
The Kettle Drum and Trumpet thus proclaim
The triumph of his pledge.
Hora. Is it a cuſtom?
Ham. I marry is't,
But to my mind, though I am native here
And to the manner born, it is a cuſtom
More honour'd in the breach than the obſervance:
" This heavy-headed revel Eaſt and Weſt
" Makes us traduc'd and taxed of other Nations;
" They clepe us Drunkards, and with ſwiniſh phraſe
" Soil our addition: and indeed it takes
" From our atchievements, though perform'd at height,
" The pith and marrow of our attribute;
" So oft it chances in particular men,
" That for ſome vicious mole of Nature in them,
" As in their birth, wherein they are not guilty,

"Since Nature cannot chuſe his origen)
"By their o'r-growth of ſome complexion,
"Oft breaking down the Pales and Forts of Reaſon;
"Or by ſome habit that too much o'r-leavens
"The form of plauſive manners, that theſe Men
"Carrying I ſay the ſtamp of one defect,
"Being Natures Livery, or Fortunes Star,
"His Virtues elſe be they as pure as Grace,
"As infinite as Man may undergo,
"Shall in the general cenſure take corruption
"From that particular fault: the dram of Eaſe
"Doth all the noble ſubſtance of a doubt
"To his own ſcandal. [*Enter Ghoſt.*

Hor. Look my Lord, where it comes.

Ham. Angels and Miniſters of Grace defend us!
"Be thou a ſpirit of health, or goblin damn'd,
"Bring with thee Airs from Heaven, or Blaſts from Hell,
"Be thy intents wicked or charitable,
"Thou com'ſt in ſuch a queſtionable ſhape
"That I will ſpeak to thee; I'll call thee *Hamlet*,
"King, Father, Royal *Dane*: O anſwer me,
"Let me not burſt in ignorance, but tell
"Why thy canoniz'd bones hearſed in death
"Have burſt their cerements: why the Sepulchre,
"Wherein we ſaw thee quietly interr'd,
"Has op't his ponderous and marble jaws,
"To caſt thee up again? ,, What may this mean,
That thou dead Coarſe again in compleat Steel
Reviſit'ſt, thus the glimpſes of the Moon,
Making night hideous, and we fools of Nature
So horridly to ſhake our diſpoſition
With Thoughts beyond the reaches of our Souls?
Say why is this? Wherefore? What ſhould we do? [*Beckens.*

Hor. It beckons you to go away with it,
As if it ſome impartment did deſire
To you alone.

Mar. Look with what courteous action
It waves you to a remote ground,
But do not go with it.

Hor. No, by no means.

Ham. It will not ſpeak, then I will follow it.

Hor. Do not my Lord.

Ham. Why? What ſhall be the fear?
I do not value my life:

And

And for my ſoul what can it do to that,
Being a thing as immortal as it ſelf?
It waves me forth again, I'll follow it.
Hor. What if it tempt you toward the Floods, my Lord,
Or to the dreadful border of the Cliff,
" That bettels o're his Baſe into the Sea,
And there aſſume ſome other form,
" Which might deprive your Sovereignty of Reaſon,
And draw you into madneſs? " Think of it,
" The very place puts toys of deſperation
" Without more motive, into every Brain,
" That looks ſo many fadoms to the Sea,
" And hears it roar beneath.
Ham. It waves me ſtill,
" Go on, I'll follow thee.
Mar. You ſhall not go, my Lord.
Ham. Hold off your hands.
Hor. Be rul'd, you ſhall not go.
Ham. My Fate cries out,
And makes each petty Artery in this Body
As hardy as the *Nemean* Lions Nerve:
Still I am call'd; unhand me Gentlemen,
I'll make a Ghoſt of him that letts me:
I ſay, away: Go on I'll follow thee. [*Exit* Ghoſt *and* Hamlet.
Hor. He grows deſperate with imagination.
Mar. Let's follow, 'tis not fit thus to obey him.
Hor. To what iſſue will this come?
Mar. Something is rotten in the ſtate of *Denmark*.
Hor. Heaven will diſcover it
" *Mar.* Nay let's follow him. [*Exeunt.*

Enter Ghoſt *and* Hamlet.

Ham. Whither wilt thou lead me? ſpeak, I'll go no further.
Ghoſt. Mark me.
Ham. I will.
Ghoſt. My hour is almoſt come,
When I to ſulphrous and tormenting Flames
Muſt render up my ſelf.
Ham. Alas poor Ghoſt.
Ghoſt. Pity me not, but lend thy ſerious hearing
To what I ſhall unfold,
Ham. Speak, I am bound to hear
Ghoſt. So art thou to revenge what thou ſhalt hear.
Ham. What?
Ghoſt. I am thy Fathers Spirit,

Doom'd for a certain term to walk the night,
And for the day confin'd to Faſt in Fires,
Till the foul crimes, done in my days of nature
Are burn't and purg'd away: But that I am forbid
To tell the ſecrets of my priſon-houſe,
I could a tale unfold, whoſe lighteſt word
Would harrow up thy Soul, freeze thy young Blood,
Make thy two Eyes like Stars ſtart from their Spheres,
Thy knotted and combined Locks to part,
And each particular Hair to ſtand an end
Like Quils upon the fearful Porcupine:
But this eternal blazon muſt not be
To Ears of Fleſh, and Blood: liſt, liſt, O liſt,
If thou didſt ever thy dear Father love.

Ham. O Heaven!

Ghoſt. Revenge his foul and moſt unnatural Murder.

Ham. Murder!

Ghoſt. Murder moſt foul, as in the beſt it is;
But this moſt foul, ſtrange, and unnatural.

Ham. Haſte me to know't, that I with wings as ſwift
As Meditation, or the thoughts of Love,
May flye to my revenge.

Ghoſt. I find thee apt;
"And duller ſhould'ſt thou be than the fat weed
"That roots it ſelf in eaſe on *Lethe*'s Wharf,
"Wouldſt thou not ſtir in this:" Now *Hamlet* hear,
'Tis given out, that ſleeping in my Garden
A Serpent ſtung me: ſo the whole Ear of *Denmark*
Is by a forged proceſs of my death
Rankly abuſed: But know thou, noble Youth,
The Serpent that did ſting thy Fathers heart
Now wears his Crown.

Ham. O my Prophetick Soul, my Uncle?

Ghoſt. I that inceſtuous, that adulterate beaſt,
"With Witchcraft of his Wits, with trait'rous Gifts,
"O wicked Wits, and Gifts that have the power
"So to ſeduce!" won to his ſhameful Luſt
The Will of my moſt ſeeming virtuous Queen.
O *Hamlet*, what a falling off was there
From me, whoſe love was of that dignity,
That it went hand in hand even with the Vow
I made to her in Marriage? And to decline
Upon a wretch, whoſe natural Gifts were poor
To thoſe of mine "but Virtue, as it never will be mov'd

"Though

" Though lewdneſs court it in a ſhape of Heaven,
" So but though to a radiant angle link't,
" Will ſort it ſelf in a Celeſtial bed,
" And prey on garbage.
But ſoft, methinks I ſcent the Morning Air,
Brief let me be: ſleeping in my Garden,
My cuſtom always of the afternoon,
Upon my ſecure hour thy Uncle to me ſtole
With juyce of curſed Hebona in a Vial,
And in the porches of my Ears did pour
The leprous diſtilment, whoſe effects
Hold ſuch an enmity with Blood of Man,
That ſwift as Quick-ſilver it courſes through
The natural Gates and Allies of the Body,
And with a ſudden vigor it doth poſſeſs
" And curd, like eager droppings into milk,
The thin and wholſome Blood; ſo did it mine,
And a moſt inſtant Tetter bark't about
Moſt Lazar-like, with vile and loathſome Cruſt
All my ſmooth Body.
Thus was I ſleeping, by a Brothers hand,
" Of life of Crown, of Queen at once diſpatcht,
Cut off even in the bloſſoms of my Sin,
" Unnuzled, diſappointed, un-aneald,
" No reckoning made, but ſent to my account
" With all my imperfections on my head.
" O horrible, O horrible, moſt horrible!
If thou haſt nature in thee, bear it not,
Let not the Royal Bed of *Denmark* be
A couch for Luxury and damned Inceſt.
But howſoever thou purſueſt this act,
Taint not thy Mind, nor let thy Soul deſign
Againſt thy Mother ought, leave her to Heaven,
And to thoſe Thorns that in her boſom lodge,
To prick and ſting her: Fare thee well at once,
The Gloworm ſhews the Morning to be near,
And 'gins to pale his uneffectual Fire:
Farewel, remember me.
" *Ham.* O all you hoſt of Heaven! O Earth! What elſe
" And ſhall I couple Hell? O fie! „ hold, hold my heart,
And you my Sinews grow not inſtant old,
But bear me ſtrongly up; remember thee!
I thou poor Ghoſt, whiles memory holds a ſeat
In this diſtracted Globe: Remember thee!

Yea, from the table of my Memory
I'll wipe away all trivial fond records,
All Regiſters of Books, all forms, and preſſures paſt,
That Youth and Obſervation copied there,
And thy commandment all alone ſhall live
With in the Book and volume of my Brain,
Unmixt with baſer matter; yes by Heaven.
O moſt pernicious Woman!
O villain, villain, ſmiling villain!
My Tables, Meet it is I ſet down,
That one may ſmile, and ſmile, and be a villain;
At leaſt I am ſure it may be ſo in *Denmark*.
So Uncle there you are: now to my word,
It is farewel, remember me.
I have ſworn't, [*Enter* Horatio *and* Marcellus.

Hor. My Lord, my Lord.

Mar. Lord *Hamlet*.

Hor. Heavens ſecure him.

Ham. So be it.

Mar. Illo, ho, ho, my Lord.

Ham. Hillo, ho, ho boy, come and come

Mar. How is't my noble Lord?

Ham. O wonderful!

Hor. Good my Lord tell it.

Ham. No, you will reveal it.

Hor. Not I my Lord.

Mar. Nor I my Lord.

Ham. How ſay you then, would heart of Man once think it?
But you'll be ſecret.

Both. As death, my Lord.

Ham. There's never a villain
Dwelling in all *Denmark*,
But he's an arrant knave.

Hor. There needs no Ghoſt, my Lord, come from the Grave
To tell us this.

Ham. Why right, you are in the right,
And ſo without more circumſtance at all
I hold it fit that we ſhake hands and part,
You as your buſineſs and deſire ſhall point you,
For every man hath buſineſs and deſire,
Such as it is, and for my own poor part
I will go pray.

Hor. Theſe are but wild and windy words, my Lord.

Ham. I am ſorry they offend you heartily,

Yes

Yes faith heartily.
Hor. There's no offence, my Lord.
Ham. Yes by St. *Patrick* but there is, *Horatio*,
And much offence too: Touching this Vision here,
It is an honeſt Ghoſt, that let me tell you;
For your deſire to know what is between us
O're-maſter't as you may: and now good friends,
As you are Friends, Scholars, and Souldiers
Give me one poor requeſt.
Hor. What is't, my Lord? we will.
Ham. Never make known what you have ſeen to night.
Both. My Lord we will not.
Ham. Nay but ſwear't.
Hor. In faith my Lord not I.
Mar. Nor I my Lord in faith.
Ham. Upon my Sword.
Mar. We have ſworn my Lord already.
Ham. Indeed upon my Sword, indeed.
[*Ghoſt cries under the Stage.*
Ghoſt. Swear.
Ham. Ha, ha, boy, ſay'ſt thou ſo? art thou there true penny?
Come on, you hear this fellow in the Selleridge,
Conſent to ſwear.
Hor. Propoſe the Oath my Lord.
Ham. Never to ſpeak of this that you have ſeen,
Swear by my Sword.
Ghoſt. Swear.
Ham. *Hic & ubique*, then we'll ſhift our ground:
Come hither Gentlemen
And lay your hands again upon my Sword:
Swear by my Sword,
Never to ſpeak of this that you have heard.
Ghoſt. Swear by his Sword.
Ham. Well ſaid old Mole, canſt thou work i'th Earth ſo faſt?
A worthy Pioneer, once more remove good friends
Hor. O day and night! but this is wondrous ſtrange.
Ham. And therefore as a ſtranger give it welcome:
There are more things in Heaven and Earth *Horatio*
Than are dreamt of in your Philoſophy: But come,
Here as before; never, ſo help you mercy,
(How ſtrange or odd ſoe're I bear my ſelf,)
As I perchance hereafter ſhall think meet,
To put an antick diſpoſition on,
That you at ſuch times ſeeing me, never ſhall

With

With Arms encumbred thus, or Head thus shak't
Or by pronouncing of some doubtful phrase,
As, well, well, we know, or we could and if we would,
Or if we list to speak, or there be, or if they might,
Or such ambiguous giving out, to note
That you know ought of me, this you must swear.
"So Grace and Mercy at your most need help you.
Ghost. Swear.
Ham. Rest, rest, perturbed Spirit. So Gentlemen
With all my love I do commend me to you,
And what so poor a man as *Hamlet* is
May do t'express his Love and friendship to you,
Shall never fail, let us go in together,
And still your Fingers on your Lips, I pray,
The time is out of joynt, O cursed spight
That ever I was born to set it right!
Nay come, let's go together. [*Exeunt.*

Act II. Scene I.

Enter Polonius *with his Man.*

"*Pol.* Give him this Money, and these two Notes, *Reynaldo.*
"*Rey.* I will my Lord.
"*Pol.* You shall do marvellous wisely, good *Reynaldo.*
"Before you visit him to make inquiry
"Of his behaviour.
"*Rey.* My Lord I did intend it,
"*Pol.* Marry well said, very well said, look you Sir,
"Enquire me first what *Danskers* are in *Paris*,
"And how, and who, what means, and where they keep,
"What company, at what expence: and finding
"By this encompassment and drift of question.
"That they do know my Son, come you more near.
"Then your particular demands will touch it,
"Take you as 'twere some distant knowledge of him,
"As thus, I know his Father, and his Friends,
"And in part him: Do you mark this *Reynaldo?*
"*Rey.* I, very well my Lord.
"*Pol.* And in part him, but you may say not well,
"But if it be he I mean he's very wild,
"Addicted so and so, and there put on him

What

" What forgeries you pleaſe, marry none ſo rank
" As may diſhonour him, take heed of that;
" But Sir, ſuch wanton, wild, and uſual ſlips
" As are companions noted and moſt known
" To Youth and Liberty.
" *Rey.* As gaming, my Lord.
" *Pol.* I, or Drinking, Fencing, Swearing,
" Quarrelling, Drabbing, you may go ſo far.
" *Rey.* My Lord, that would diſhonour him.
" *Pol.* Faith, as you may ſeaſon it in the charge.
" You muſt not put another ſcandal on him,
" That he is open to incontinency,
" That's not my meaning, but breath his faults ſo quaintly,
" That they may ſeem the taints of Liberty,
" The flaſh and out-break of a fiery mind,
" A ſavageneſs in unreclaimed Blood
" Of general aſſault.
" *Rey.* But my good Lord.
" *Pol.* Wherefore ſhould you do this?
" *Rey.* I my Lord, I would know that.
" Marry Sir, here's my drift,
" And I believe it is a fetch of Wit.
" You laying theſe ſlight ſullies on my Son,
" As 'twere a thing a little ſoil'd with working,
" Mark you your party in converſe, he you would ſound,
" Having ever ſeen in the prenominate crimes
" The Youth you breath of guilty, be aſſur'd
" He cloſes with you in this conſequence;
" Good Sir (or ſo) or Friend, or Gentleman,
" According to the phraſe or the addition
" Of Man and Countrey.
" *Rey.* Very good my Lord,
" *Pol.* And then Sir does he this, he does: What was I about to ſay?
" By the Maſs I was about to ſay ſomething,
" Where did I leave?
" *Rey.* At cloſes in the conſequence.
Pol. At cloſes in the conſequence; I marry,
" He cloſes thus, I know the Gentleman,
" I ſaw him yeſterday, or th'other day,
" Or then, or then, with ſuch or ſuch, and, as you ſay,
" There was he Gaming there, or took in's rouze,
" There falling out at Tennis, or perchance
" I ſaw him enter ſuch and ſuch a houſe of ſale,
" *Videlicet*, a Brothel, or ſo forth. See you now,

" Your

" Your Bait of Falſhood takes this Carp of Truth,
" And thus do we of Wiſdom and of reach,
" With windleſſes, and with eſſays of byas,
" By indirects find directions out:
" So by my former Lecture and Advice
" Shall you my Son. You have me, have you not?
" *Rey.* My Lord I have.
" *Pol.* God buy ye, Fare ye well.
" *Rey.* Good my Lord.
" *Pol.* Obſerve his inclination in your ſelf.
" *Rey.* I ſhall my Lord.
" *Pol.* And let him ply his Muſick.
" *Rey.* Well my Lord. [*Exit* Rey. *Enter* Ophelia.
" *Pol.* Farewel. How now *Ophelia*, what's the matter?
Oph. O my Lord my Lord, I have been ſo affrighted.
Pol. With what?
Oph. My Lord, as I was reading in my Cloſſet,
Prince *Hamlet* with his Doublet all unbrac'd,
No Hat upon his Head, his Stockings looſe,
" Ungartred, and down gyved to his Ankle,
Pale as his Shirt, his Knees knocking each other,
And with a look ſo piteous
As if he had been ſent from Hell
To ſpeak of horrors, he comes before me.
Pol. Mad for thy Love?
Oph. My Lord I do not know,
But truly I do fear it.
Pol. What ſaid he?
Oph. He took me by the wriſt and held me hard,
Then goes he to the length of all his Arm,
And with his other Hand thus o're his Brow
He falls to ſuch peruſal of my Face
As he would draw it: long ſtaid he ſo,
At laſt, a little ſhaking of mine Arm,
And thrice his Head thus waving up and down,
He raiſed a ſigh ſo piteous and profound
As it did ſeem to ſhatter all his bulk,
And end his Being: That done he lets me go,
And with his Head over his Shoulders turn'd
He ſeem'd to find his way without his Eyes;
For out of doors he went without their helps,
And to the laſt bended their light on me.
Pol. Come, go with me, I will go ſeek the King,
This is the very extaſie of Love,

" Whoſe

'Whose violent property foregoes it self,
'And leads the Will to desperate undertakings,
'As oft as any passion under heaven
'That does afflict our natures: I am sorry;
What? have you given him any hard words of late?
Ophe. No my good Lord, but as you did command,
I did repel his letters, and deny'd
His access to me.
Pol. That hath made him mad:
'I am sorry that with better heed and judgment
'I had not coated him; I fear'd he did but trifle,
'And meant to wrack thee, but beshrew my jealousie;
'By heaven it is as proper to our age
'To cast beyond our selves in our opinions,
'As it is common for the younger sort
'To lack discretion:" Come, go with me to the King,
This must be known, which being kept close might move
More grief to hide, than hate to utter love.
Come. [*Exeunt.*

Flourish. Enter King, Queen, Rosencraus *and* Guildenstern.

King. Welcome good *Rosencraus* and *Guildenstern*,
Besides, that we did long to see you,
The need we have to use you did provoke
Our hasty sending. Something you have heard
Of *Hamlet's* transformation, so call it;
Sith nor th'exterior, nor the inward man
Resembles that it was: what it should be
More than his fathers death, that thus hath put him
So much from the understanding of himself
I cannot dream of: I entreat you both,
That being of so young days brought up with him,
'And sith so neighbourhood to his youth and haviour,
That you vouchsafe your rest here in our Court
Some little time, so by your companies
To draw him on to pleasures, and to gather
So much as from occasion you may glean,
Whether ought to us unknown afflicts him thus,
That lies within our remedy.
Queen. Good Gentlemen, he hath much talkt of you,
And sure I am, two men there are not living
To whom he more adheres; if it will please you
To shew us so much gentleness and good will,
As to employ your time with us a while
For the supply and profit of our hope,

Your visitation shall receive such thanks
As fits a Kings remembrance.
Ros. Both your Majesties
Might by the Soveraign power you have over us
Put your dread pleasures more into command
Than to intreaty.
Guil. But we both obey,
And here give up our selves in the full bent
To lay our service freely at your feet.
King. Thanks *Rosencraus*, and gentle *Guildenstern*.
" *Queen.* Thanks *Guildenstern*, and gentle *Rosencraus*.
And I beseech you instantly to visit
My too much changed son: go some of you
And bring these Gentlemen where *Hamlet* is.
Guil. Heavens make our presence and our practices
Pleasant and helpful to him.
Queen. Amen. [*Exeunt* Ros. *and* Guil.

Enter Polonius.

'*Pol.* Th'Embassadors from *Norway*, my good Lord,
'Are joyfully return'd.
'*King.* Thou still hast been the father of good news.
'*Pol.* Have I my Lord? I assure my good Liege
'I hold my duty as I hold my soul,
'Both to my God, and to my gracious King;
'And " I do think, or else this brain of mine
Hunts not the trial of policy so sure
As it has us'd to do, that I have found
The very cause of *Hamlet*'s lunacy.
King. O speak of that, that I do long to hear.
, *Pol.* Give first admittance to the Embassadors.
'My news shall be the fruit to that great feast.
King. Thy self do grace to them, and bring them in.
'He tells me, my dear *Gertrud*, he hath found
'The head and source of all your sons distemper.
'*Queen.* I doubt it is no other but the main,
'His fathers death, and our hasty marriage.

Enter Embassadors.

'*King.* Well, we shall sift him; welcome my good friends:
'Say *Voltemand*, what from our brother *Norway*?
'*Vol.* Most fair return of greetings and desires:
'Upon our first he sent out to suppress
'His Nephews levies, which to him appear'd
'To be a preparation 'gainst the *Pollack*,
'But better lookt into, he truly found

It

'It was against your Highneſs; whereat griev'd
'That ſo his ſickneſs, age and impotence
'Was falſly born in hand, ſends out arreſts
'On *Fortinbraſs*, which he in brief obeys,
'Receives rebuke from *Norway*, and in fine,
'Makes vow before his Uncle never more
'To give th' aſſay of Arms againſt your Majeſty:
'Whereon old *Norway* overcome with joy
'Gives him threeſcore thouſand Crowns in annual fee,
'And his Commiſſion, to employ thoſe Souldiers
'So levied as before, againſt the *Polack*,
'With an entreaty herein further ſhown,
'That it might pleaſe you to give quiet paſs
'Through your Dominions for this enterprize
'On ſuch regards of ſafety and allowance
As herein are ſet down.

'*King*. It likes us well,
'And at our more conſidered time we'll read,
'Anſwer, and think upon this buſineſs.
'Mean time we thank you for your well took labour,
'Go to your reſt, at night we'l feaſt together:
'Moſt welcome home. [*Exeunt Embaſſadors.*

'*Pol*. This buſineſs is well ended.
My Liege and Madam, to expoſtulate
What Majeſty ſhould be, what duty is,
Why day is day, night night, and time is time,
Were nothing but to waſte night, day, and time.
Therefore brevity is the ſoul of wit,
And tediouſneſs the limbs and outward flourniſhes,
I will be brief: your noble ſon is mad,
Mad call I it? for to define true madneſs,
What is't but to be nothing elſe but mad?
But let that go.

Queen. More matter with leſs art.

Pol. Madam, I ſwear I uſe no art at all,
That he's mad, 'tis true, 'tis true, 'tis pity,
And pity 'tis 'tis true, a foolish figure,
But farewel it, for I will uſe no art.
Mad let us grant him then, and now remains
That we find out the cauſe of this effect,
Or rather ſay the cauſe of this defect,
For this effect defective comes by cauſe:
Thus it remains, and the remainder thus.
Conſider.

I have a daughter, have while ſhe is mine,
Who in her duty and obedience, mark,
Hath given me this; now gather and ſurmiſe. [*Reads.*

To the Celeſtial and my ſouls Idol, the moſt beautified Ophelia.
That's an ill phraſe, a vile phraſe; beautified is a vile phraſe: but you ſhall hear, thus in her excellent white boſom, Theſe, &c.

Queen. Came this from *Hamlet* to her?

Pol. Good Madam ſtay awhile, I will be faithful.

Doubt thou the Stars are fire, *Letter.*
Doubt that the Sun doth move,
Doubt truth to be a lyar,
But never doubt I love.

O dear Ophelia, *I am ill at theſe numbers, I have not art to reckon my groans; but that I love thee beſt, O moſt beſt believe it: adieu.*
Thine evermore, moſt dear Lady, whilſt this machine is to him,
Hamlet.

Pol. This in obedience hath my daughter ſhewn me,
And more concerning his ſollicitings,
As they fell out by time, by means, and place,
"All given to mine ear.

King. But how hath ſhe receiv'd his love?

Pol. What do you think of me?

King. As of a man faithful and honourable.

Pol. I would fain prove ſo, but what might you think
'When I had ſeen this hot love on the wing?
'As I perceiv'd it (I muſt tell you that)
'Before my daughter told me; what might you
Or my dear Majeſty your Queen here think,
If I had plaid the Desk, or Table-book,
'Or given my heart a winking, mute and dumb,
Or lookt upon this love with idle ſight,
What might you think? no, I went round to work,
And my young Miſtreſs thus I charg'd:
Lord *Hamlet* is a Prince above thy ſphere,
This muſt not be: and then I precepts gave her,
That ſhe ſhould lock her ſelf from his reſort,
Admit no meſſengers, receive no tokens.
Which done, ſhe took the fruits of my advice;
And he repell'd, a ſhort tale to make,
Fell into a ſadneſs, then into a faſt,
'Thence to a watch, then into a weakneſs,
Thence to a lightneſs, and by this declenſion
Into the madneſs wherein he now raves,
And all we mourn for.

King.

King. Do you think 'tis this?

Queen. It may be very likely.

Pol. Hath there been such a time, I would fain know that,
That I have positively said, 'tis so,
When it prov'd otherwise?

King. Not that I know.

Pol. Take this from this, if this be otherwise,
If circumstances lead me, I will find
Where truth is hid, though it were hid indeed
Within the centre.

King. How may we try it further?

Pol. Sometimes he walks four hours together
Here in the Lobby.

Queen. So he does indeed,

Pol. At such a time I'll loose my daughter to him,
Be you and I behind the Arras then,
Mark the encounter; if he love her not,
And be not from his reason fal'n thereon,
Let me be no assistant for a State,
But keep a Farm and Carters.

King. We will try it. [*Enter* Hamlet.

Queen. But look where sadly the poor wretch comes reading.

Pol. Away, I do beseech you both away, [*Exit King and Queen.*
I'll board him presently. Oh give me leave.
'How does my good Lord *Hamlet*?

'*Ham.* Excellent well.

Pol. Do you know me, my Lord?

'*Ham.* Excellent well, you are a Fishmonger.

Pol. Not I, my Lord.

Ham. Then I would you were so honest a man.

Pol. Honest, my Lord?

Ham. I Sir, to be honest, as this World goes,
Is to be one man pickt out of ten thousand.

Pol. That's very true, my Lord.

Ham. For if the Sun breed maggots in a dead dog, being a good kissing carrion. Have you a daughter?

Pol. I have my Lord.

Ham. Let her not walk i'th' Sun, conception is a blessing.
But as your daughter may conceive, Friend, look to it.

Pol. How say you by that? still harping on my Daughter, yet he knew me not at the first but said I was a fish-monger, he is far gone; & truly in my youth I suffered much extremity for love, very near this: I'le speak to him again. What do you read my Lord?

Ham. Words, words, words.

Pol. What is the matter, my Lord?

Ham. Between who?

Pol. I mean the matter that you read, my Lord.

Ham. Slanders Sir; for the Satyrical Rogue says here, that old men have gray beards, that their faces are wrinkled, their eyes purging thick Amber, and Plum-tree Gum, and that they have a plentiful lack of wit, together with most weak hams; all which Sir, though I most powerfully and potently believe, yet I hold it not honesty to have it thus set down, for your self Sir shall grow old, as I am, if like a crab you could go backward.

Pol. Though this be madness, yet there is method in't; will you walk out of the air, my Lord?

Ham. Into my Grave?

Pol. Indeed that's out of the air; how pregnant sometimes his replys are! a happiness that often madness hits on, which "reason "and sanctity could not so happily be delivered of." I will leave him and my daughter. My Lord, I will take my leave of you.

Ham. You cannot take from me any thing that I will not more willingly part withal, except my life, except my life, except my life.

Enter Guildenstern *and* Rosencraus.

Pol. Fare you well, my Lord.

Ham. These tedious old fools.

Pol. You go to seek the Lord *Hamlet*, there he is.

Ros. Save you Sir.

Guil. My honored Lord.

Ros. My most dear Lord.

Ham. My excellent good Friends, how dost thou *Guildenstern*? Ah *Rosencraus*, good lads, how do you both?

'*Ros.* As the indifferent children of the Earth.

'*Guil.* Happy in that we are not ever happy on Fortunes cap, "We are not the very button.

'*Ham.* Nor the soles of her shooe.

'*Ros.* Neither, my Lord.

'*Ham.* Then you live about her waste, or in the middle of her favors.

'*Guil.* Faith her privates we.

'*Ham.* In the secret parts of fortune, oh most true, she is a strum-'pet." What news?

Ros. None my Lord, but the Worlds grown honest.

Ham. Then is Doomsday near: But your news is not true. But in the beaten way of friendship, what make you at *Elsenour*?

Ros. To visit you, my Lord, no other occasion.

Ham. Beggar that I am, I am even poor in thanks, but I thank you; "and sure, dear Friends, my thanks are too dear a half penny." were you not sent for? is it your own inclining? is it a free visitation?

tion? come, come, deal juſtly with me, come, come, nay ſpeak.

Guil. What ſhould we ſay, my Lord?

Ham. Any thing, but to th' purpoſe you were ſent for, and there is a kind of confeſſion in your looks, which your modeſties have not craft enough to colour: I know the good King and Queen have ſent for you.

Roſ. To what end, my Lord?

Ham. That you muſt teach me: but let me conjure you by the rights of our fellowſhips, by the conſonancy of our youth, by the obligation of our ever preferred love, and by what more dear a better proposer can charge you withal, be even and direct with me whether you were ſent for or no.

Roſ. What ſay you?

Ham. Nay then I have an eye of you, if you love me hold not off.

Guil. My Lord, we were ſent for.

Ham. I will tell you why, ſo ſhall my anticipation prevent your diſcovery, and your ſecreſie to the King and Queen moult no feather: I have of late, but wherefore I know not, loſt all my mirth, forgone all cuſtom of Exerciſes; "and indeed, it goes ſo heavily "with my diſpoſition," that this goodly frame the Earth ſeems to me a ſteril promontory; this moſt excellent canopy the Air, look you, this brave ore-hanged Firmament, this majeſtical Roof fretted with golden fire, why it appeareth nothing to me but a foul and peſtilent Congregation of vapors. What a piece of Work is man! how noble in reaſon! how infinite in faculties! in form and moving how expreſs and admirable! in action how like an angel! in apprehenſion, the beauty of the World, the paragon of Animals; and yet to me what is this quinteſſence of duſt? man delights not me, nor woman neither, though by your ſmiling you ſeem to ſay ſo.

Roſ. My Lord, there was no ſuch ſtuff in my thoughts.

Ham. Why did ye laugh then, when I ſaid, man delights not me?

Roſ. To think, my Lord, if you delight not in man, what Lenten entertainment the Players ſhall receive from you, we met them on the way, and hither are they coming to offer you ſervice.

Ham. He that plays the King ſhall be welcome, his Majeſty ſhall have tribute of me, the adventurous Knight ſhall uſe his foil and target, the Lover ſhall not ſigh *gratis*, the humorous man ſhall end his part in peace, and the Lady ſhall ſay her mind freely, or the blank Verſe ſhall halt for't. What Players are they?

Roſ. Even thoſe you were wont to take ſuch delight in, the Tragedians of the City.

Ham. How chances it they travel? their reſidence both in reputation and profit was better both ways.

Roſ. I

Ros. I think their inhibition comes by the means of the late innovation.

Ham. Do they hold the ſame eſtimation they did when I was in the City? are they ſo followed?

Ros. No indeed they are not.

Ham. It is not very ſtrange; for my Uncle is King of *Denmark*, and thoſe that would make mouths at him while my father lived, give twenty, forty, fifty, a hundred duckets a piece for his Picture in little: there is ſomething in this more than natural, if Philoſophy could find it out. [*A Flouriſh.*

Guil. Shall we call the Players?

Ham. Gentlemen, you are welcome to *Elſenour*, your hands: come then, th' appurtenance of welcome is Faſhion and Ceremony, let me comply with you in this garb, "leſt my extent to the Players, which I tell you muſt ſhew fairly outwards, ſhould more appear like entertainment than yours; you are welcome:" but my Uncle-father, and Aunt-mother are deceived.

Guil. In what, my dear Lord?

Ham. I am but mad North-North-weſt, when the wind is Southerly I know a hawk from a hand ſaw. [*Enter* Polonius.

Pol. Well be with you Gentlemen.

Ham. Hark you *Guildenſtern*, and you too, at each ear a hearer, that great baby as you ſee is not yet out of his ſwadling-clouts.

Ros. Happily he is the ſecond time come to them, for they ſay an old man is twice a child

Ham. I will propheſie that he comes to tell me of the Players, mark it: You ſay right Sir, a Monday morning 'twas then indeed.

Pol. My Lord, I have news to tell you.

Ham. My Lord I have news to tell you: when *Roſcius* was an Actor in *Rome*.

Pol. The Actors are come hither my Lord.

Ham. Buz, buz.

Pol. Upon mine honour.

Ham. Then came each Actor on his Aſs.

Pol. The beſt Actors in the world, either for Tragedy, Comedy, Hiſtory, Paſtoral, Paſtoral-Comical, Hiſtorical-Paſtoral Scene, individable, or Poem unlimited: *Seneca* cannot be too heavy, nor *Plautus* too light for the law of wit and the liberty; theſe are the only men.

Ham. O *Jephta* Judge of *Iſrael*, what a treaſure hadſt thou?

Pol. What a treaſure had he my Lord?

Ham. Why one fair daughter and no more, the which he loved paſſing well.

Pol. Still on my daughter.

Ham. Am I not i'th' right old *Jephta*?

Pol. What

Pol. What follows then my Lord?

" *Ham.* Why as by lot God wot, and then you know it came to " paſs, as moſt like it was: " the firſt row of the Rubrick will ſhew you more, for look where my abridgement comes.

Enter Players.

Ham. You are welcome Maſters, welcome all, " I am glad to ſee " thee well, welcome good friends; " O old friends! why thy face is valanc'd ſince I ſaw thee laſt, com'ſt thou to beard me in *Denmark*? What my young Lady and Miſtriſs! my Lady your Ladyſhip is nearer to Heaven than when I ſaw you laſt by the altitude of a Chopine, I wiſh your voice, like a piece of uncurrant Gold, be not crackt within the ring: Maſters you are all welcome, we'll e'ne to't like friendly Faulkeners, fly at any thing we ſee, we'll have a ſpeech ſtrait, come give us a taſte of your quality; come a paſſionate Speech.

Player. What Speech my good Lord?

Ham. I heard thee ſpeak me a Speech once, but it was never acted, or if it was, not above once, for the Play I remember pleaſed not the Million, 'twas a caviary to the general, " but it was as I re- " ceived it and others, whoſe judgments in ſuch matters cried in " the top of mine, an excellent Play, well digeſted in the Scenes, ſet " down with as much modeſty as cunning. I remember one ſaid " there were no Sallets in the lines to make the matter ſavoury, nor " no matter in the phraſe that might indite the Author of affection, " but call'd it an honeſt method, as wholſome as ſweet, and by very " much more handſome than fine; " one Speech in't I chiefly loved, 'twas *Æneas* talkt to *Dido*, and thereabout of it eſpecially when he ſpeaks of *Priamus* ſlaughter, if it live in your memory begin at this line, let me ſee, let me ſee, the rugged *Pyrrhus* like th' Hircanian Beaſt, 'tis not it begins with *Pyrrhus*. The rugged *Pyrrhus*, he whoſe ſable Arms,

Black as his purpoſe did the night reſemble,
" When he lay couched in the ominous horſe,
" Hath now his dread and black complexion ſmear'd
" With Heraldry more diſmal head to foot:
" Now is he total Gules, horridly trickt
" With Blood of Fathers, Mothers, Daughters, Sons,
" Bak'd and embaſted with the parching ſtreets,
" That lend a tyrannous and a damned light
" To their Lords murder, roaſted in Wrath and Fire,
" And thus o'er-ciſed with coagulate gore,
" With Eyes like Carbuncles, the hellish *Pyrrhus*
" Old Grandſire *Priam* ſeeks; ſo proceed you.

Pol. My Lord, well ſpoken, with good accent and good diſcretion, So proceed.

Play. Anon he finds him
Striking too ſhort at *Greeks*, his antick ſword
Rebellious to his Arm, lies where it falls.
Repugnant to Command; unequal matcht,
Pyrrhus at *Priam* drives, in rage ſtrikes wide,
But with the whiff and wind of his fell Sword,
Th' unnerved Father falls.
" Seeming to feel this blow, with flaming top
" Stoops to his Baſe, and with a hideous craſh
" Takes priſoner *Pyrrhus* Ear: for loe his Sword,
" Which was declining on the milky head
" Of reverend *Priam* ſeem'd i'th' Air to ſtick,
" So as a painted Tyrant *Pyrrhus* ſtood,
" Like a neutral to his Will and Matter,
" Did nothing:
But as we often ſee againſt ſome ſtorm,
A ſilence in the Heavens, the Racks ſtand ſtill,
The bold Wind ſpeechleſs, and the Orb below
As huſh as death, anon the dreadful Thunder
Doth rend the region: So after *Pyrrhus* pauſe,
A rouzed Vengeance ſets him new awork,
And never did the Cyclops hammers fall,
On *Mars* his Armour, forg'd for proof Eterne,
With leſs remorſe than *Pyrrhus* bleeding Sword
Now falls on *Priam*.
Out, out, thou ſtrumpet! " all you gods
" In general Synod take away her power,
" Break all the ſpokes and felloes from her wheel,
" And bowl the round Nave down the hill of Heaven,
" As low as to the Fiends.

Pol. This is too long.

Ham. It ſhall to the Barbers with your Beard: prethee ſay on, he's for a Jig, or a Tale of Bawdry, or he ſleeps; ſay on, come to *Hecuba*.

Pla. But who alas had ſeen the mobled Queen.

Ham. The mobled Queen!

Pol. That's good.

Play. Run bare-foot up and down, threatning the flames,
A clout upon that Head
Where late the Diadem ſtood, and for a Robe,
About her lank and all o're-teamed Loins,
A Blanket in the alarm of Fear caught up.

Who

Who this had ſeen, with tongue in venome ſteept,
'Gainſt Fortunes ſtate would Treaſon have pronounc'd:
"But if the gods themſelves did ſee her then,
'When ſhe ſaw *Pyrrhus* make malicious ſport
'In mincing with his ſword her husbands limbs,
'The inſtant burſt of clamor that ſhe made,
'Unleſs things mortal move them not at all,
'Would have made milch the burning eyes of heaven,
'And paſſion in the gods.

Pol. Look where he has not turned his colour, and has tears in's eyes: prethee no more.

Ham. 'Tis well, I'll have thee ſpeak out the reſt of this ſoon. Good my Lord will you ſee the Players well beſtowed, do you hear, let them be well uſed, for they are the abſtract and brief Chronicles of the time; after your death you were better have a bad Epitaph, than their ill report while you live.

Pol. My Lord I will uſe them according to their deſert.

Ham. Much better, uſe every man after his deſert, and who ſhall ſcape whipping? uſe them after your own honor and dignity, the leſs they deſerve, the more merit is in your bounty: Take them in.

Pol. Come ſirs.

Ham. Follow him friends; we'll hear a Play to morrow; doeſt thou hear me old friend, can you play the murder of *Gonzago*?

Play. I my Lord.

Ham. We'll have it to morrow night: you could for need ſtudy a ſpeech of ſome dozen lines, which I would ſet down and inſert in't, could you not?

Pol. I my Lord.

Ham. Very well: follow that Lord, and look you mock him not. My good friends, I'le leave you till night, you are welcome to *Elſenour*. [*Exeunt* Pol. *and* Players.

Roſ. Good my Lord. [*Exit.*

Ham. I ſo, God buy to you; now I am alone.
O what a rogue and peaſant ſlave am I!
Is it not monſtrous that this Player here
But in a fiction, in a dream of paſſion,
Could force his ſoul ſo to his own conceit,
That from her working all the viſage wand,
Tears in his eyes, diſtraction in's aſpect,
A broken voice, and his whole function ſuting
With forms to his conceit, and all for nothing,
For *Hecuba*?
What's *Hecuba* to him, or he to her,
That he ſhould weep for her? what would he do

Had he the motive, and that for passion
That I have? he would "drown the Stage with tears,
"And cleave the general ear with horrid speech,
Make mad the guilty and appeal the free,
"Confound the ignorant, and amaze indeed
'The very faculties of eyes and ears. yet I,
'A dull and muddy metled rascal, peak
'Like *John*-a-dreams, unpregnant of my cause,
'And can say nothing, no not for a King,
'Upon whose property and most dear life
'A damn'd defeat was made: am I a coward?
'Who calls me villain, breaks my pate across,
'Plucks of my beard, and blows it in my face,
'Twekes me by th' nose, gives me the lye i' th' throat
'As deep as to the lungs? who does me this?
'Hah s'wounds I should take it, for it cannot be
But I am Pigeon liver'd, and lack gall
To make oppression bitter, or e're this
I should have fatted all the region Kites
With this slaves offal: "bloody, bawdy villain,
"Remorseless, treacherous, lecherous, kindless villain.
'Why what an ass am I? this is most brave,
'That I the son of a dear father murthered,
'Prompted to my revenge by heaven and hell,
'Must like a whore unpack my heart with words,
'And fall a cursing like a very drab, stallion, fie upon't, foh,
'About my brains," hum, I have heard
That guilty creatures sitting at a Play
Have by the very cunning of the Scene
Been strook so to the soul, that presently
They have proclaim'd their malefactions:
For murther though it have no tongue will speak
"With most miraculous organ." I'll have these Players
Play something like the murther of my father
Before mine Uncle: I'll observe his looke,
"I'll tent him to the quick, if he do blench
'I know my course." The Spirit that I have seen
May be a Devil, and the Devil hath power
T'assume a pleasing shape, "yea and perhaps
"Out of my weakness and my melancholy,
'As he is very potent with such spirits,
'Abuses me to damn me:" I'll have grounds
More relative than this, the Play's the thing
Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the King. [*Exit.*

Act III. Scene I.

Enter King, Queen, Polonius, Ophelia, Roſencraus, Guildenſtern, *Lords.*

King. AND can you by no drift of conference
Get from him why he puts on this confuſion,
" Grating ſo harſhly all his days of quiet
" With turbulent and dangerous lunacy?
Roſ. He does confeſs he feels himſelf diſtracted,
But from what cauſe he will by no means ſpeak.
Guil. Nor do we find him forward to be ſounded;
But with a crafty madneſs keeps aloof
" When we would bring him on to ſome confeſſion
" Of his true eſtate.
Queen. Did he receive you well?
Roſ. Moſt civilly.
Guil. But with much forcing of his diſpoſition.
Roſ. Unapt to queſtion; but of our demands
Moſt free in his reply.
Queen. Did you invite him to any paſtime?
Roſ. Madam, It ſo fell out that certain Players
We o're-took on the way: of theſe we told him,
And there did ſeem in him a kind of joy
To hear of it; they are here about the Court,
And as I think they have already order
This night to play before him.
Pol. 'Tis moſt true,
And he beſeecht me to entreat your Majeſties
To hear and ſee the matter.
King. With all my heart,
And it doth much content me,
To hear him ſo inclin'd:
Good Gentlemen give him a further edge,
And urge him to theſe delights.
Roſ. We ſhall my Lord. [*Exeunt* Roſ. *and* Guild.
King. Sweet *Gertrard* leave us two,
For we have cloſely ſent for *Hamlet* hither,
That he as 'twere by accident may meet
Ophelia here; her father and my ſelf,
Will ſo beſtow our ſelves, that ſeeing and unſeen

We

We may of their encounter judge,
'And gather by him as he is behav'd.
If't be the affliction of his Love or no
'That thus he ſuffers for.
Queen. I ſhall obey you:
And for my part *Ophelia* I do wiſh
That your good beauties be the happy cauſe
Of *Hamlet*'s wildneſs, ſo ſhall I hope your vertues
Will bring him to his wonted way again,
To both your honors.
Ophel. Madam, I wiſh I may.
Pol. Ophelia walk you here whil'ſt we
(If ſo your Majeſty ſhall pleaſe) retire conceal'd; "read on this
'That ſhew of ſuch an exerciſe may colour (Book,
'Your lonelineſs: we are oft to blame in this,
'Tis too much prov'd, that with devotions viſage,
'And pious action we do ſugar o're
'The Devil himſelf.
'*King.* O 'tis too true:
'How ſmart a laſh that ſpeech doth give my conſcience!
'The harlots cheek beautified with plaiſtring art,
'Is not more ugly to the thing that helps it,
'Than is my deed to my moſt painted word:
'O heavy burden!" [*Enter* Hamlet.
Pol. I hear him coming, withdraw my Lord.
Ham. To be or not to be, that is the queſtion,
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to ſuffer
The ſlings and arrows of outragious fortune,
Or to take arms againſt a Sea of troubles,
And by oppoſing end them: to die to ſleep
No more; and by a ſleep to ſay we end
The heart-ake, and the thouſand natural ſhocks
That fleſh is heir to; 'tis a conſummation,
Devoutly to be wiſht, to die to ſleep,
To ſleep perchance to dream, I there's the rub.
For in that ſleep of death what dreams may come,
When we have ſhuffled off this mortal coil
Muſt give us pauſe, there's the reſpect
That makes calamity of ſo long life:
For who would bear the whips and ſcorns of time,
Th'oppreſſors wrong, the proud mans contumely,
The pangs of deſpiſed love, and the laws delay,
The inſolence of office, and the ſpurns
That patient merit of th'unworthy takes,

When

Whenas himſelf might his *Quietus* make
With a bare Bodkin? Who would fardels bear,
To groan and ſweat under a weary life?
But that the dread of ſomething after death,
The undiſcover'd Countrey, from whoſe born
No Traveller returns, puzzles the Will
And makes us rather bear thoſe ills we have,
Than fly to others that we know not of.
Thus Conſcience does make Cowards,
And thus the healthful face of Reſolution
Shews ſick and pale with Thought:
And enterpriſes of great pith and moment,
With this regard, their currents turn awry,
And loſe the name of action. Soft you now,
The fair *Ophelia*, Nymph in thy Orizons
Be all my Sins remembred?

Ophel. Good my Lord,
How does your Honour for this many a day?

Ham. I humbly thank you, well.

Ophel. My Lord I have remembrances of yours,
That I have longed to re-deliver,
I pray you now receive them.

Ham. No, not I, I never gave you ought.

Ophel. My honoured Lord, you know right well you did,
And with them words of ſo ſweet breath compoſed
As made theſe things more rich: their perfume loſt,
Take theſe again, for to the noble mind
Rich gifts wax poor, when givers prove unkind.
There my Lord.

Ham. Ha, ha, are you honeſt?

Ophel. My Lord.

Ham. Are you fair?

Ophel. What means your Lordſhip?

Ham. That if you be honeſt and fair, you ſhould admit no diſcourſe to your beauty.

Ophel. Could Beauty, my Lord have better commerce
Than with Honeſty?

Ham. I truly, for the power of Beauty will ſooner transform honeſty from what it is to a Bawd, than the force of honeſty can tranſlate Beauty to his likeneſs: this was ſometime a Paradox, but now the time gives it proof. I did love you once,

Ophel. Indeed my Lord you made me believe ſo.

Ham. You ſhould not have believed me, for Virtue cannot ſo evacuate our old ſtock but we ſhall reliſh of it: I loved you not.

Ophel.

Ophel. I was the more deceived.

Ham. Get thee to a Nunnery, why wouldeſt thou be a breeder of ſinners? I am my ſelf indifferent honeſt, but yet I could accuſe me of ſuch things, that it were better my Mother had not born me: I am very proud, revengeful, ambitious, with more offences at my beck than I have thoughts to put them in, imagination to give them ſhape, or time to act them in: What ſhould ſuch fellows as I do crawling between Earth and Heaven? we are arrant knaves, believe none of us, go thy ways to a Nunnery? Where's your Father?

Ophel. At home my Lord.

Ham. Let the doors be ſhut upon him,
That he may play the fool no where but in's own houſe:
Farewel.

Ophel. O help him you ſweet heavens.

Ham. If thou doſt Marry, I'll give thee this plague for thy Dowry, be thou as chaſte as Ice, as pure as Snow, thou ſhalt not eſcape calumny, get thee to a Nunnery, farewel. Or if thou wilt needs Marry, Marry a fool, for wiſe men know well enough what monſters you make of them: to a Nunnery go, and quickly too, farewel.

Ophel. Heavenly powers reſtore him.

Ham. I have heard of your paintings well enough: Nature hath given you one Face, and you make your ſelves another, you jig and amble, and you liſp, you nick-name Heavens creatures, and make your wantonneſs your ignorance; go to, I'll no more on't, it hath made me mad: I ſay we will have no more Marriages, thoſe that are married already all but one ſhall live, the reſt ſhall keep as they are: to a Nunnery go. [*Exit.*

Ophel. O what a noble mind is here o'rethrown!
The Courtiers, Souldiers, Scholars, Eye, Tongue, Sword,
Th' expectation and Roſe of the fair ſtate,
The Glaſs of Faſhion, and the Mould of Form,
Th' obſerv'd of all obſervers, quite, quite down,
And I of Ladies moſt deject and wretched,
That ſuckt the Honey of his Muſick vows;
Now ſee that Noble and moſt Sovereign Reaſon
Like ſweet Bells jangled out of tune and harſh,
That unmatcht form and ſtature of blown youth
Blaſted with extaſie, O woe is me
T'have ſeen what I have ſeen, ſee what I ſee! [*Exit.*

Enter King *and* Polonius.

King. Love! his Affections do not that way tend,
For what he ſpake, though it lack Form a little,
Was not like madneſs, there's ſomething in his Soul
O're which his melancholy ſits on brood,

And

And I doubt the hatch and the diſcloſe
Will be ſome danger, which to prevent
I have in quick determination
Thus ſet down: he ſhall with ſpeed to *England*,
For the demand of our neglected tribute:
Haply the Seas and Countries different,
With variable objects ſhall expel
This ſomething ſettled matter in his heart,
Whereon his brains ſtill beating,
Puts him thus from faſhion of himſelf.
What think you on't?

Pol. It ſhall do well:
But yet I do believe the origin and commencement of it
Sprung from neglected love: how now *Ophelia*?
You need not tell us what Lord *Hamlet* ſaid,
We heard it all: my Lord do as you pleaſe,
But if you hold it fit, after the Play
Let his Queen-mother all alone intreat him
To ſhew his grief; "let her be round with him,"
And I'll be plac'd (ſo pleaſe you) in the ear
Of all their conference: if ſhe find him not,
To *England* ſend him, or confiee where
Your wiſdom beſt ſhall think.

King. It ſhall be ſo,
Madneſs in great ones muſt not unwatcht go. [*Exeunt.*

Enter Hamlet *and three of the Players.*

"*Ham.* Speak the ſpeech I pray you as I pronounc'd it to you "ſmoothly from the tongue; but if you mouth it, as many of our "Players do, I had as lieve the Town-crier ſpoke my lines: nor "do not ſaw the Air too much with your hand, thus, but uſe all gent- "ly; for in the very torrent tempeſt, and, as I may ſay, whirlwind "of your paſſion, you muſt acquire and beget a temperance that "may give it ſmoothneſs: O it offends me to the ſoul to hear a ro- "buſtous Periwig-pated fellow tear a paſſion to very rags, to ſplit "the ears of the ground-lings, who for the moſt part are capable "of nothing but inexplicable dumb ſhews and noiſe: I would have "ſuch a fellow whipt for o're-doing *Termagant*, it out-*Herods* "*Herod*, pray you avoid it.

"*Pla.* I warrant your honour.

"*Ham.* Be not too tame neither, but let your own diſcretion be "your tutor; ſuit the action to the word, the word to the action, "with this ſpecial obſervance, that you o're-ſtep not the modeſty "of Nature: for any thing ſo o're done is from the purpoſe of Play- "ing, whoſe end both at firſt, and now, was, and is, to hold as 'twere

" the mirror up to nature, to ſhew vertue her feature, ſcorn her
" own image, and the very age and body of the time his form and
" preſſure: now this over-done, or come tardy of, tho' it makes
" the unskilful laugh, cannot but make the judicious grieve; the
" cenſure of which one muſt, in your allowance, o'r-weigh a whole
" Theatre of others. O there be Players that I have ſeen play, and
" heard others praiſe, and that highly, not to ſpeak it profanely,
" that neither having the accent of Chriſtians, nor the gate of
" Chriſtian, Pagan, nor man, have ſo ſtrutted and bellowed, that
" I have thought ſome of Natures Journey-men had made men,
" and not made them well, they imitated humanity ſo abominably.
" *Play.* I hope we have reformed that indifferently with us.
" *Ham.* O reform it altogether, and let thoſe that play your
" Clowns ſpeak no more than is ſet down for them, for there be
" of them that will themſelves laugh, to ſet on ſome quantity of
" barren Spectators to laugh too, though in the mean time ſome
" neceſſary Queſtion of the Play be then to be conſidered: that's
" villanous, and ſhews a moſt pitiful ambition in the Fool that
" uſes it: go, make you ready. " How now, my Lord? will
the King hear this piece of work?

Enter Polonius, Guildenſtern, *and* Roſencraus.

Pol. And the Queen too, and that preſently. (them?

Ham. Bid the Players make haſte. Will you two help to haſten

Roſ. I, my Lord. [*Exeunt thoſe two.*

Ham. What ho, *Horatio?* [*Enter* Horatio.

Horat. Here my Lord, at your ſervice.

Ham. Horatio, thou art e'en as juſt a man
As e'r my converſation met withal.

Horat. O my dear Lord!

Ham. Nay, do not think I flatter,
For what advancement may I hope from thee,
That haſt no revenue but thy good ſpirits
To feed and clothe thee? Why ſhould the poor be flattered?
" No, let the candied tongue lick abſurd pomp,
" And crook the pregnant Hinges of the Knee,
" Where thriſt may follow fawning, doeſt thou hear?
Since my dear Soul was Miſtreſs of her choice,
And could of men diſtinguiſh her Election,
Sh' ath ſeal'd thee for her ſelf: for thou haſt been
As one in ſuffering all that ſuffers nothing;
" A man that fortunes buffets and rewards
" Haſt ta'n with equal thanks: and bleſt are thoſe
" Whoſe blood and judgment are ſo well commedled
" That they are not a pipe for fortunes finger.

" To

" To ſound what ſtops ſhe pleaſe: " give me that man,
That is not paſſions Slave, and I will wear him
In my hearts Core, I, in my heart of hearts
As I do thee. Something too much of this:
There is a Play to night before the King,
One Scene of it comes near the circumſtance
Which I have told thee of my Fathers death;
I prethee when thou ſeeſt that Act on foot
Even with the very Comment of thy ſoul
Obſerve my Uncle: if then his hidden guilt
Do not it ſelf diſcover in one ſpeech,
It is a damned Ghoſt that we have ſeen,
" And my imaginations are as foul
" As *Vulcan*'s ſtithy: " give him heedful note.
For I mine eyes will rivet to his face,
And after we will both our judgments joyn
In cenſure of his ſeeming.

Hora. Well my Lord,
If he ſteal ought the whilſt this Play is playing
And ſcape detection, I will pay the theft.

Enter Trumpets and Kettle-Drums, King, Queen, Polonius, Ophelia.

Ham. They are coming to the Play, I muſt be idle.
Get you a place.

King. How fares our Couſen *Hamlet?*

Ham. Excellent i' faith,
Of the Chamelion's Diſh I eat the Air,
Promiſe cram'd, you cannot feed Capons ſo.

King. I have nothing with this Anſwer, *Hamlet,*
Theſe words are not mine.

Ham. No, nor mine now my Lord.
You play'd once in the Univerſity you ſay?

Pol. That did I, my Lord, and was accounted a good Actor.

Ham. What did you enact?

Pol. I did enact *Julius Cæſar,* I was kill'd i' th' Capitol,
Brutus kill'd me.

Ham. It was a brute part of him to kill ſo Capital a Calf there.
Be the Players ready?

Roſ. I my Lord, they wait upon your patience.

Gert. Come hither my dear *Hamlet,* ſit by me.

Ham. No, good Mother, here's metal more attractive.

Pol. O ho, do you mark that?

Ham. Lady, ſhall I lye in your lap?

Ophel. No, my Lord.

Ham. Do you think I mean Country-matters?

" *Ophel.* I think nothing, my Lord.

" *Ham.* That's a fair thought to lye between Maids legs.

" *Ophel.* What is, my Lord?

" *Ham.* Nothing.

Ophel. You are merry, my Lord.

Ham. Who I?

Ophel. I my Lord.

Ham. Your only Jig-maker, what ſhould a man do but be merry: for look you how cheerfully my Mother looks, and my Father died within's two hours.

Ophel. Nay, 'tis twice two months, my Lord.

Ham. So long! nay then let the Devil wear black, for I'll have a Suit of ſables: O heavens! die two months ago, and not forgotten yet! then there's hope a Great Man's memory may out-live his life half a year; but he muſt build Churches then, " or elſe " ſhall he ſuffer not thinking on, with the Hobby-horſe, whoſe Epitaph is, for O, for O, the Hobby-horſe is forgot.

The Trumpets ſound. *Dumb ſhew follows.*

Enter a King and a Queen, the Queen embracing him, and he her, he takes her up, and declines his head upon her neck; he lies him down upon a Bank of Flowers, ſhe ſeeing him aſleep leaves him: anon comes in another man, takes off his Crown, kiſſes it, pours poyſon in the Sleepers ears, and leaves him; the Queen returns, finds the King dead, makes paſſionate action; the Poyſoner with ſome three or four comes in again, ſeem to condole with her, the dead Body is carried away, the Poyſoner woes the Queen with Gifts, ſhe ſeems harſh a while, but in the end accepts love.

Ophel. What means this, my Lord?

Ham. It is munching *Mallico*, it means miſchief.

Ophel. Belike this Shew imports the Argument of the Play.

" *Ham.* We ſhall know by this Fellow. [*Enter Prologue.*

The Players cannot keep, they'll ſhew all ſtraight.

Othel. Will he ſhew us what this Shew meant?

Ham. I, or any Shew that you will ſhew him, be not aſham'd to ſhew; he'll not ſhame to tell you what it means.

Ophel. You are naught, you are naught: I'll mark the Play.

Prologue. For us and for our Tragedy,
Here ſtooping to your clemency,
We beg your hearing patiently.

Ham. Is this a Prologue, or the Poeſie of a Ring?

Ophel. 'Tis brief, my Lord.

Ham. As womans love.

Enter King and Queen.

King. Full thirty times hath *Phœbus* Carr gone round

" *Neptunes*

" *Neptune*'s ſalt waſh, and *Tellus* orb'd the ground,
" And thirty dozen Moons with borrow'd ſheen
" About the World have twelve times thirty been,
Since Love our hearts, and *Hymen* did our hands
Unite, infolding them in ſacred Bands.
Queen. So many Journies may the Sun and Moon
Make us again count o'r e're love be done:
But woe is me, you are ſo ſick of late,
So far different from your former ſtate,
That I diſtruſt you; yet though I diſtruſt,
Diſcomfort you, my Lord, it nothing muſt.
For Women fear too much, even as they love,
" And Womens fear and love hold quantity,
" Either none, in neither ought, or in extremity.
Now what my love has been, proof makes you know,
And as my love is great my fear is ſo:
Where love is great, the ſmalleſt doubts are fear;
Where little fears grow great, great love grows there.
King. I muſt leave thee, Love, and ſhortly too,
My working powers their functions leave to do,
And thou ſhalt live in this fair World behind,
Honour'd, belov'd, and haply one as kind
For Husband ſhalt thou——
Queen. O confound the reſt!
Such love muſt needs be treaſon in my breaſt.
In ſecond Husband let me be accurſt;
None wed the ſecond but who kill'd the firſt; [*Ham.* That's
The inſtances that ſecond Marriage move [Wormwood.
Are baſe reſpects of thrift, but none of love:
" A ſecond time I kill my Husband dead
" When ſecond Husband kiſſes me in Bed.
King. I do believe you think what now you ſpeak,
But what we do determine oft we break:
Purpoſe is but the Slave to memory,
Of violent birth and poor validity;
Which now like fruits unripe ſticks on the Tree,
But fall unſhaken when they mellow be.
Moſt neceſſary 'tis that we forget
To pay our ſelves what to our ſelves is debt:
What to our ſelves in paſſion we propoſe,
The paſſion ending doth the purpoſe loſe;
" The violence of either grief or joy
" Their own enactures with themſelves deſtroy;
" Where joy moſt revels, grief doth moſt lament:

" Grief joy, joy griefs on ſlender accident.
This World is not for aye, nor is it ſtrange,
That even our loves ſhould with our fortunes change:
For 'tis a Queſtion left us yet to prove,
Whether love lead fortune, or elſe fortune love.
" The great man down, you mark his Favourite flies,
" The poor advanc'd makes Friends of Enemies:
" And hitherto doth love on fortune tend,
" For who not needs ſhall never lack a Friend,
" And who in want a hollow Friend doth try,
" Directly ſeaſons him his Enemy.
" But orderly to end where I begun,
" Our wills and fates do ſo contrary run,
" That our devices ſtill are overthrown:
" Our thoughts are ours, their ends none of our own.
Think ſtill thou wilt no ſecond Husband wed
But thy thoughts dye when thy firſt Lord is dead.
Queen. Nor Earth to me give Food, nor Heaven light,
Sport and repoſe lock from me Day and Night,
" To deſperation turn my truſt and hope,
" And Anchors cheer in Priſon be my ſcope,
" Each oppoſite that blanks the face of joy,
" Meet what I would have well, and it deſtroy;
Both here and hence purſue me laſting ſtrife, [*Ham.* If he ſhould
If once I Widow be, and then a Wife. [break it now.
King. 'Tis deeply ſworn: Sweet leave me here a while,
My ſpirits grow dull, and fain I would beguile
The tedious Day with ſleep.
Queen. Sleep rock thy Brain,
And never come miſchance between us twain. [*Exeunt.*
Ham. Madam, how like you this Play?
Queen. The Lady doth proteſt too much methinks.
Ham. O but ſhe'll keep her word.
King. Have you heard the Argument? is there no offence in it?
Ham. No, no, they do but jeſt, poyſon in jeſt, no offence.
King. What do you call the Play?
Ham. The Mouſe-trap; marry how? tropically. This Play is the image of a murder done in *Vienna*, *Gonzago* is the Dukes name, his Wife *Baptiſta*, you ſhall ſee anon, 'tis a knaviſh piece of work, but what of that? your Majeſty and we ſhall have free ſouls, it touches not us; let the galled Jade winch, our withers are unwrung. This is one *Lucianus*, Nephew to the King. [*Enter* Lu-
Ophel. You are as good as a *Chorus*, my Lord. [cianus.
Ham. I could interpret between you and your love,

If

If I could ſee the puppits dallying.

" *Ophel.* You are keen my Lord, you are keen.

Ham. It would coſt you a groaning to take off mine edge.

Ophel. Still worſe and worſe.

" *Ham.* So you miſtake your husbands. " Begin murtherer, " leave thy damnable faces and begin, come, the croakig Raven " doth bellow for revenge.

Luc. Thoughts black, hands apt, drugs fit, and time agreeing,
Conſiderate ſeaſon, and no creature ſeeing,
Thou mixture rank, of midnight weeds collected,
With *Hecats* bane thrice blaſted, thrice infected,
Thy natural magick, and dire property,
On wholeſome life uſurps immediately.

Ham. He poiſons him i'th' Garden for his eſtate, his name's *Gonzago*, the ſtory is extant, and written in very choice Italian: you ſhall ſee anon how the murtherer gets the love of *Gonzago*'s Wife. *Ophel.* The King riſes.

Queen. How fares my Lord?

Pol. Give o're the Play.

King. Give me ſome light, away.

Pol. Lights, lights, lights. [*Exeunt all but* Hamlet *and* Hora.

Ham. Why let the ſtrucken Deer go weep,
The Hart ungalled go play,
For ſome muſt watch whilſt ſome muſt ſleep,
Thus runs the world away. " Would not this, Sir, and a forreſt " of feathers, if the reſt of my fortunes turn Turk with me, with " provincial Roſes on my raz'd ſhooes, get me a fellowſhip in a " City of Players?

" *Hora.* Half a ſhare.

" *Ham.* A whole one I.

" For thou doſt know O *Damon* dear,
" This Realm diſmantled was
" Of *Jove* himſelf, and now reigns here
" A very very Paicock.

Hora. You might have rim'd.

Ham. O good *Horatio*, I'll take the Ghoſts word for a thouſand pound. Didſt perceive?

Hora. Very well my Lord.

Ham. Upon the talk of the poiſoning.

Hora. I did very well note him.

Ham. Ah, ha, come ſome muſick, come the Recordors,
" For if the King likes not the Comedy,
" Why then belike he likes it not perdie.
" Come, ſome muſick.

Enter

Enter Roſencraus *and* Guildenſtern.

Guil. Good my Lord vouchſafe me a word with you.

Ham. Sir, a whole Hiſtory.

Guil. The King Sir.

Ham. I, Sir, what of him?

Guil. Is in his retirement marvellous diſtempered.

Ham. With drink Sir?

Guil. No my Lord, with choler.

Ham. Your wiſdom ſhould ſhew it ſelf richer to ſignifie this to the Doctor; for for me to put him to his purgation, would perhaps plunge him into more choler

Guil. Good my Lord, put your diſcourſe into ſome frame, And ſtart not ſo wildly from my buſineſs.

Ham. I am tame, Sir, pronounce.

Guil. The Queen your mother in moſt great affliction of ſpirit hath ſent me to you.

Ham. You are welcome.

Guil. Nay, good my Lord, this courteſie is not of the right breed, if it ſhall pleaſe you to make me a wholſome anſwer, I will do your Mothers commandment; if not, your pardon and my return ſhall be the end of the buſineſs.

Ham. Sir, I cannot.

Roſ. What my Lord?

Ham. Make you a wholſome anſwer, my wit's diſeas'd, but Sir, ſuch anſwer as I can make, you ſhall command, or rather as you ſay, my mother; therefore no more, but to the matter, my mother you ſay,

Roſ. Then thus ſhe ſays, your behaviour hath ſtrook her into amazement and admiration.

Ham. O wonderful ſon that can thus aſtoniſh a mother! but is there no ſequel at the heels of this mothers admiration? impart.

Roſ. She deſires to ſpeak with you in her Cloſet e're you go to bed.

Ham. We ſhall obey, were ſhe ten times our mother; have you any further trade with us?

Roſ. My Lord, you once did love me.

Ham. And do ſtill by theſe pickers and ſtealers.

Roſ. Good my Lord, what is the cauſe of your diſtemper? you do ſurely bar the door upon your own liberty, if you deny your griefs to your friend.

Ham. Sir I lack advancement.

Roſ. How can that be, when you have the voice of the King himſelf for your ſucceſſion in *Denmark?*

Enter the Players with Recorders,

Ham. I Sir, but while the graſs grows, the Proverb is ſomething

thing musty: oh the Recordors, let me see one, to withdraw with you; why do you go about to recover the wind of me, as if you would drive me into a toil?

Guil. O my Lord, if my duty be too bold, my love is too unmannerly.

Ham. I do not well understand that, will you play upon this pipe?

Guil. My Lord, I cannot.

Ham. I pray you.

Guil. Believe me, I cannot.

Ham. I beseech you.

Guil. I know no touch of it, my Lord.

Ham. It is as easie, as lying; govern these ventages with your fingers and the thumb, give it breath with your mouth, and it will discourse most eloquent musick: look you, these are the stops.

Guil. But these I cannot command to any utterance of harmony, I have not the skill.

Ham. Why, look you now how unworthy a thing you make of me, you would play upon me, you would seem to know my stops, you would pluck out the heart of my mystery, you would sound me from my lowest note to my compass, and there is much musick, excellent voice in this little Organ, yet you cannot make it speak; do you think I am easier to be plaid on than a pipe? Call me what instrument you will, though you can fret me, you cannot play upon me. [*Enter* Polonius.

Pol. My Lord, the Queen would speak with you, and presently.

Ham. do you see yonder cloud that's almost in shape of a camel?

Pol. 'Tis like a Camel indeed.

Ham. Methinks it is like a Weazel.

Pol. It is black like a Weazel.

Ham. Or like a Whale.

Pol. Very like a Whale.

Ham. Then I will come to my mother by and by;
They fool me to the top of my bent. "I will come by and by;
"Leave me friends.
"I will say so. By and by is easily said.
'Tis now the very witching time of night,
When Church-yards yawn, and hell it self breaths out
Contagion to the world: now could I drink hot blood,
And do such business as day it self
Would quake to look on: soft, now to my mother.
O heart lose not thy nature! let not ever
The soul of *Nero* enter this firm bosom!
Let me be cruel, not unnatural.

I will ſpeak Daggers to her, but uſe none,
" My tongue and ſoul in this be hypocrites;
" How in my words ſoever ſhe be ſhent,
" To give them ſeals never my ſoul conſent. [*Exit.*

Enter King, Roſencraus *and* Guildenſtern.

King. I like him not, nor ſtands it ſafe with us
To let his madneſs range; therefore prepare you,
I your comiſſion will forthwith diſpatch,
And he to *England* ſhall along with you,
The terms of our eſtate may not endure
Hazzard ſo near us as doth hourly grow
Out of his brows.

Guil. We will our ſelves provide;
Moſt holy and religious fear it is
To keep thoſe many bodies ſafe
That live and feed upon your majeſty.

" *Roſ.* The ſingle and Peculiar life is bound
" With all the ſtrength and armour of the mind
" To keep it ſelf from noyance, but much more
" That ſpirit upon whoſe weal depends and reſts
" The lives of many: the ceſs of Majeſty
" Dies not alone, but like a gulf doth draw
" What's near it with it: or it is a maſſie wheel,
" Fixt on the ſomnet of the higheſt mount,
" To whoſe huge ſpokes ten thouſand leſſer things
" Are morteiſt and adjoyn'd, which when it falls,
" Each ſmall annexment, petty conſequence
" Attends the boiſtrous rain, never alone
" Did the King ſigh, but a general grone.

King. Arm you, I pray you, to this ſpeedy voyage,
For we will fetters put about this fear
Which now goes too free footed.

Roſ. We will make haſte. [*Exeunt Gent.*

Enter Polonius.

Pol. Sir, he's going to his mothers cloſet,
Behind the Arras I'll convey my ſelf
To hear the Proceſs, I'll warrant ſhe'll tax him home;
And as you ſaid, and wiſely was it ſaid,
'Tis meet that ſome more audience than a mother,
Since nature makes them partial, ſhould o're-hear
Their ſpeech; fare you well my Liege,
I'll call upon you e're you go to bed,
And tell you what I hear. [*Exit.*

King. Thanks, dear my Lord.

O my

O my offence is rank, it ſmells to Heaven,
It hath the eldeſt curſe upon 't;
A Brothers murder! pray I cannot,
Though inclination be as ſharp as will,
My ſtronger guilt defeats my ſtrong intent;
And like a man to double buſineſs bound,
I ſtand in pauſe where I ſhall firſt begin,
And both neglect: what if this curſed hand
Were thicker than it ſelf with Brothers blood?
Is there not rain enough in the ſweet Heavens
To waſh it white as Snow? whereto ſerves mercy,
But to confront the Viſage of offence?
And what's in prayer, but this twofold force,
To be foreſtalled e're we come to fall,
Or pardon'd being down? then I'll look up:
My fault is paſt: but Oh! what form of prayer
Can ſerve my turn? forgive me my foul murther?
That cannot be, ſince I am ſtill poſſeſt
Of thoſe effects for which I did the murder,
My Crown, mine own ambition, and my Queen:
May one be pardoned and retain th' offence?
" In the corrupted Currents of this World
" Offences guided hand may ſhew by Juſtice,
And oft 'tis ſeen the wicked prize it ſelf
Buys out the Law; but 'tis not ſo above,
There is no ſhuffling, there the action lies
In his true nature, and we our ſelves compell'd
Even to the teeth and forehead of our faults
To give in evidence: what then? what reſts?
Try what repentance can; what can it not?
Yet what can it when one cannot repent?
O wretched ſtate! O boſom black as death!
O limed ſoul! that ſtruggling to be free,
Art more engaged! help Angels, make aſſay,
Bow ſtubborn knees, and heart with ſtrings of ſteel
Be ſoft as Sinews of the new-born Babe,
All may be well. [*Enter* Hamlet.

Ham. Where is this Murtherer, he kneels and prays,
And now I'll do't, and ſo he goes to Heaven,
And ſo am I reveng'd? that would be ſcann'd;
He kill'd my Father, and for that
I his ſole Son ſend him
To Heaven:
Why this is a reward, ——not revenge:

He took my Father grosly, full of Bread,
With all his crimes broad blown as flush as *May*,
And how his *Audit* stands, who knows save Heaven?
But in our circumstance and course of thought,
'Tis heavy with him; and am I then reveng'd
To take him in the purging of his soul,
When he is fit and seasoned for his passage?
No,
Up Sword, and know thou a more horrid time,
When he is drunk, asleep, or in his rage,
Or in th' incestuous pleasures of his Bed,
At game, a swearing, or about some act
That has no relish of salvation in't,
" Then trip him that his heels may kick at Heaven,
" And that his soul may be as damn'd and black
" As Hell whereto it goes: " my Mother stays,
This Physick but prolongs thy sickly days. [*Exit.*

King. My words fly up, my thoughts remain below,
Words without thoughts never to Heaven go. [*Exit.*

Enter Queen and Polonius.

Pol. He will come strait, look you lay home to him,
Tell him his pranks have been too broad to bear with,
And that your Grace hath stood between
Much heat and him. I'll here conceal my self,
Pray you be round. [*Enter* Hamlet.

Queen. I'll warrant you, fear me not,
Withdraw, I hear him coming.

Ham. Now, Mother, what's the matter?

Queen. Hamlet, thou hast thy Father much offended.

Ham. Mother, you have my Father much offended.

Queen. Come, come, you answer with an idle tongue.

Ham. Go, go, you question with a wicked tongue.

Queen. Why how now, *Hamlet?*

Ham. What's the matter now?

Queen. Have you forgot me?

Ham. No, by the Rood, not so,
You are the Queen, your Husbands Brothers Wife,
And, would it were not so, you are my Mother.

Queen. Nay then I'll set those to you that can speak.

Ham. Come, come, and sit down, you shall not budge,
You go not till I set you up a Glass
Where you may see the utmost part of you.

Queen. What wilt thou do? thou wilt not murder me?
Help ho.

Pol. What

Pol. What, ho help.
Ham. How now, a Rat dead for a Ducket, dead!
Pol. O I am ſlain.
Queen. O me, what haſt thou done?
Ham. Nay I know not, is it the King?
Queen. O what a raſh and bloody deed was this!
Ham. A bloody deed, almoſt as bad, Good Mother,
As kill a King, and marry with his Brother.
Queen. As kill a King!
Ham. I Lady, it was my word.
Thou wretched, raſh, intruding Fool, farewel,
I took thee for thy better, take thy fortune,
Thou findeſt to be too buſie is ſome danger.
Leave wringing of your hands, peace, ſit you down,
And let me wring your heart, for ſo I ſhall
If it be made of penetrable ſtuff,
" If damned cuſtom have not braz'd it ſo,
" That it be proof and bulwark againſt ſenſe.
Queen. What have I done that thou dar'ſt wag thy tongue
In noiſe ſo rude againſt me?
Ham. Such an act
That blurs the grace and bluſh of modeſty,
Calls Vertue Hypocrite, takes off the Roſe
From the fair forehead of an innocent love,
And ſets a bliſter there, makes Marriage Vows
As falſe as Dicers Oaths: Oh ſuch a Deed
As from the Body of contraction plucks
The very ſoul, and ſweet Religion makes
A rhapſody of words, " Heavens face does glow,
" Yea this ſolidity and compound maſs
" With heated Viſage as againſt the doom,
" Is thought-ſick at the act.
Ah me, that act!
Queen. Ay me! what act?
Ham. That roars ſo loud, and thunders in the *Index*:
Look here upon this Picture, and on this,
The counterfeit preſentment of two Brothers;
See what a Grace was ſeated on this Brow,
Hyperions Curls, the front of *Jove* himſelf,
An eye like *Mars* to threaten and command,
" A ſtation like the Herald *Mercury*
" New lighted on a heaven-kiſſing Hill,
A combination and form indeed
Where every God did ſeem to ſet his Seal,

To give the World assurance of a man.
This was your Husband: look you now what follows.
Here is your Husband, like a mildew'd ear,
Blasting his wholesome Brother: have you eyes?
Could you on this fair Mountain leave to feed,
And batter on this Moor? ha! have you eyes?
You cannot call it love, for at your age
The hey-day of the blood is tame, it's humble,
And waits upon the judgment; and what judgment
Would step from this to this? sense sure you have,
Else could you not have motion, but sure that sense
Is apoplex'd, for madness would not err,
Nor sense to ecstasie was ne'r so thrall'd,
But it reserv'd some quantity of choice
To serve in such a difference: "what Devil was't
"That thus hath couzen'd you at hoodman-blind?
"Eyes without feeling, feeling without sight,
"Ears without hands, or eyes, smelling sans all,
"Or but a sickly part of one true sense
"Could not so mope," Oh shame! where is thy blush?
Rebellious Hell,
If thou canst mutiny in a Matrons bones
To flaming Youth, let Vertue be as Wax
And melt in her own fire, proclaim no shame
When the compulsive ardure gives the charge,
Since frost it self as actively doth burn,
And reason pardons will.
Queen, O *Hamlet*, speak no more,
Thou turn'st my very eyes into my soul,
"And there I see such black and grieved spots
"As will leave there their tinct.
Ham. Nay, but to live
In the rank sweat of an incestuous Bed,
Stew'd in corruption, "honeying and making love
"Over the nasty Stye.
Queen. O speak to me no more,
These words like Daggers enter into mine ears,
No more, sweet *Hamlet*.
Ham. A Murtherer and a Villain,
A Slave that's not the twentieth part the tythe
Of your precedent Lord, a Vice of Kings,
A Cut-purse of the Empire and the Rule,
That from a Shelf the precious Diadem stole:
And put it in his Pocket. [*Enter Ghost.*

Ham. A King of ſhreds and patches.
Save me and hover o're me with your wings
You heavenly guards: what would your gracious fire?
Qu. Alas he's mad.
Ham. Do you not come your tardy ſon to chide,
That lap'ſt in time, and perſon lets go by
Th'important acting of your dead command? O ſay!
Ghoſt. Do not forget: this viſitation
Is but to whet thy almoſt blunted purpoſe.
But look, amazement on thy mother ſits,
O ſtep between her and her ſighing ſoul!
Conceit in weakeſt bodies, ſtrongeſt works.
Speak to her, *Hamlet.*
Ham. How is it with you Lady?
Qu. Alaſs, how is't with you,
That you do bend your eye on vacancy,
And with th' incorporeal air do hold diſcourſe?
Forth at your eyes your ſpirits wildly peep,
And as the ſleeping Souldiers in th' alarm,
Your hair
Starts up and ſtands on end: O gentle ſon!
Upon the heat and flame of thy diſtemper
Sprinkle cool patience: whereon do you look?
Ham. On him, on him, look you how pale he gleres,
His form and cauſe conjoyn'd, preaching to ſtones
Would make them capable; do not look upon me,
Leſt with this piteous action you convert
My ſtern effects; then what I have to do
Will want true colour, tears perchance for blood.
Qu. To whom do you ſpeak this?
Ham. Do you ſee nothing there?
Qu. Nothing at all, yet all that's here I ſee.
Ham. Nor did you nothing hear?
Qu. No, nothing but our ſelves.
Ham. Why, look you there, look how it ſteals away,
My Father in his habit as he liv'd,
Look where he goes, even now out at the portal, [*Exit Ghoſt.*
Qu. This is the very coinage of your brain,
This bodileſs creation ecſtaſie is very cunning in.
Ham. My pulſe as yours doth temperately keep time.
And makes as healthful muſick: it is not madneſs
That I have uttered, bring me to the Teſt,
And I the matter will re-word, which madneſs
Cannot do mother, for love of grace

Lay

Lay not that flattering unction to your ſoul,
That not your treſpaſs but my madneſs ſpeaks;
It will but skin and film the ulcerous place,
Whiles rank corruption mining all within
Infects unſeen: confeſs your ſelf to Heaven,
Repent what's paſt, avoid what is to come,
" And do not ſpread the compoſt on the Weeds
" To make them ranker: forgive me this my Vertue
" For in the fatneſs of theſe purſie times,
" Vertue it ſelf of Vice muſt pardon beg,
" Yea, curb and woo for leave to do him good.
Queen. O *Hamlet*, thou haſt cleft my heart.
Ham. Tnen throw away the worſer part of it,
And leave the purer with the other half.
Good night; but go not to my Uncles Bed,
Aſſume a Vertue if you have it not. Once more good night.
" That Monſter Cuſtom who all ſenſe doth eat,
" Of habits Devil, is Angel yet in this,
" That to the uſe of actions fair and good
" He likewiſe gives a Frock or Livery
" That aptly is put on: refrain to Night,
" And that ſhall lend a kind of eaſineſs
" To the next abſtinence, the next more eaſie;
" For uſe almoſt can change the ſtamp of Nature,
" And maſter the Devil, or throw him out
" With wondrous potency: Once more good night.
And when you are deſirous to be bleſt,
I'll bleſſing beg of you: for this ſame Lord
I do repent, but Heaven hath pleas'd it ſo,
To puniſh me with this, and this with me,
That I muſt be their Scourge and Miniſter,
I will beſtow him, and will anſwer well
The Death I gave him; ſo again good night.
I muſt be cruel only to be kind,
Thus bad begins and worſe remains behind.
One word more, Good Lady.
Queen. What ſhall I do?
" *Ham.* Not this by no means that I bid you do,
Let not the King tempt you to Bed again,
" Pinch Wanton on your Cheek, call you his Mouſe,
" And let him for a pair of reechy kiſſes,
" Or padling in your Neck with his damn'd Fingers,
Make you to ravel all this matter out,
That I eſſentially am not in madneſs,

But

But mad in craft; "'twere good you let him know:
"For who that's but Queen, fair, ſober, wife,
"Would from a paddock, from a Bat, a Gib,
"Such dear concernings hide? who would do ſo?
"No, in deſpite of ſenſe and ſecreſie
"Unpeg the Basket on the houſes top,
"Let the birds flie, and like the famous Ape,
"To try concluſions in the basket creep,
"And break your own neck down.
Qu. Be thou aſſur'd, if words be made of breath,
And breath of life, I have no life to breath
What thou haſt ſaid to me.
Ham. I muſt to *England*, you know that.
Qu. Alack, I had forgot,
'Tis ſo concluded on.
"*Ham.* There's letters ſeal'd, and my two School-fellows,
"Whom I will truſt as I will Adders fang'd,
"They bear the mandate; they muſt ſweep my way,
"And marſhal me to knavery; let it work,
"For 'tis the ſport to have the Engineer
"Hoiſt with his own petar, and't ſhall go hard
"But I will delve one yard below their Mines,
"And blow them at the Moon; O 'tis moſt ſweet,
"When in one line two crafts directly meet.
This man will ſet me packing,
I'll lug the guts into the neighbour room.
Mother, good night indeed, this Counſellor
Is now moſt ſtill, moſt ſecret, and moſt grave,
Who was in's life a moſt fooliſh prating knave.
Come Sir, to draw toward an end with you:
Good night, mother. [*Exit.*

ACT IV. SCENE I.

Enter King and Queen with Roſencraus *and* Guildenſtern.
King. THere's matter in theſe ſighs, theſe profound heaves,
You muſt tranſlate, 'tis fit we underſtand them:
Where is your ſon? (Guild.
Qu. Beſtow this place on us a little while. [*Exeunt* Roſ. *and*
Ah, mine own Lord, what have I ſeen to night?
King. What *Gertrard*, how does *Hamlet*?

Qu. Mad as the ſea and wind when both contend
Which is the mightier in his lawleſs fit,
Behind the Arras hearing ſomething ſtir,
Whips out his Rapier, cries a Rat, a Rat,
And in this brainiſh apprehenſion kills
The unſeen good old man.

King. O heavy deed!
It had been ſo with us, had we been there;
His liberty is full of threats to all,
To you your ſelf, to us, to every one.
Alas, how ſhall this bloody deed be anſwered?
It will be laid to us, whoſe providence
Should have reſtrain'd
This mad young man: but ſo much was our love,
We would not underſtand what was moſt fit,
But like the owner of a foul diſeaſe,
To keep it from divulging, let it feed
Even on the pith of life: where is he gone?

Qu. To draw apart the body he hath kill'd,
O're whom his very madneſs, like ſome Ore
Among a mineral of metal baſe,
Shews it ſelf pure, he weeps for what is done.

King. *Gertrard* come away,
The Sun no ſooner ſhall the mountains touch
But we will ſhip him hence, and this vile deed
We muſt with all our Majeſty and ſkill [*Enter* Roſ. *and* Guild.
Both countenance and excuſe. Ho, *Guildenſtern*,
Friends both, go joyn with you ſome further aid,
Hamlet in madneſs hath *Polonius* ſlain,
And from his mothers cloſet hath he drag'd him:
Go, ſeek him out, ſpeak fair, and bring the body
Into the Chappel; I pray you haſt in this:
Come, *Gertrard*, we'll call up our wiſeſt friends,
And let them know both what we mean to do,
And what's untimely done,
Whoſe whiſper o're the worlds Diameter,
As level as the Cannon to his blank,
"Tranſports his poiſoned ſhot, may miſs our name,
"And hit the woundleſs Air: O come away,
"My ſoul is full of diſcord and diſmay. [*Exeunt.*

Enter Hamlet, Roſencraus, *and others.*

Ham. Safely ſtow'd: what noiſe? who calls *Hamlet*?
O here they come,

Roſ. What

Roſ. What have you done, my Lord, with the dead Body?

Ham. Compounded it with duſt, whereto it is akin.

Roſ. Tell us where 'tis, that we may take it thence,
And bear it to the Chappel.

Ham. Do not believe it.

Roſ. Believe what?

Ham. That I can keep your counſel and not mine own; beſides, to be demanded of a Spunge, what replication ſhould be made by the Son of a King?

Roſ. Take you me for a Spunge, my Lord?

Ham. I, Sir, that ſokes up the Kings countenance, his rewards, his authorities: but ſuch Officers do the King beſt ſervice in the end, he keeps them like an Apple in the corner of his Jaw, firſt mouth'd to be laſt ſwallowed; when he needs what you have gleaned, it is but ſqueezing you, and Spunge you ſhall be dry again.

Roſ I underſtand you not, my Lord.

Ham. I am glad of it: a knavish ſpeech ſleeps in a fooliſh ear.

Roſ. My Lord, you muſt tell us where the Body is, and go with us to the King.

"*Ham.* The Body is with the King, but the King is not with "the Body: the King is a thing.

"*Guil.* A thing, my Lord?

"*Ham.* Of nothing, " bring me to him. [*Exeunt.*

Enter King and two or three.

King. I have ſent to ſeek him, and to find the Body;
How dangerous is it that this man goes looſe?
Yet muſt we not put the ſtrong Law on him,
He's lov'd of the diſtracted multitude,
Who like not in their judgment, but their eyes,
And where 'tis ſo, th' Offenders Scourge is weigh'd,
But never the offence: to bear all ſmooth and even,
This ſudden ſending him away muſt ſeem
Deliberate pauſe; Diſeaſes deſperate grown
By deſperate appliance are reliev'd,
Or not at all.

Enter Roſencraus, *and all the reſt.*

"*King.* How now? what hath befallen?

Roſ. Where the dead Body is beſtow'd, my Lord,
We cannot get from him.

King. But where is he?

Roſ. Without, my Lord, guarded to know your pleaſure.

King. Bring him before us.

Roſ. Ho, bring in the Lord *Hamlet.* [*They enter.*

King. Now, *Hamlet*, where's *Polonius*?

Ham. At Supper.

King. At Supper! where?

Ham. Not where he eats, but where he is eaten, a certain convocation of politick worms are e'en at him: "your worm is your "only Emperor for diet. We fat all creatures else to fat us, and we "fat our selves for maggots; your fat King and your lean Beggar is but variable service, two dishes but to one table, that's the end.

King. Alas! Alas!

Ham. A man may fish with the Worm that hath eat of a King, "eat of the Fish that hath fed of that Worm.

"*King.* What dost thou mean by this?

"*Ham.* Nothing but to shew you how a King may go a pro-"gress through the guts of a Beggar.

King. Where is *Polonius?*

Ham. In Heaven, send thither to see if your Messenger find him not there, seek him i' th' other place your self: but indeed if you find him not within this Month, you shall nose him as you go up the Stairs into the Lobby.

King. Go seek him there.

Ham. He will stay till you come.

King. *Hamlet*, this deed for thine especial safety,
Which we do tender, as we daily grieve
For that which thou hast done, must send thee hence:
Therefore prepare thy self,
The Bark is ready, and the Wind sits fair,
"Th' Associates tend, and every thing is bent
For *England.*

Ham. For *England?*

King. I, *Hamlet.*

Ham. Good.

King. So is it if thou knew'st our purposes.

Ham. I see a Cherub that sees them: but come, for *England:* Farewel, Dear Mother.

King. Thy loving Father *Hamlet.*

Ham. My Mother, Father and Mother is Man and Wife, Man and Wife is one Flesh, and so my Mother.
Come, for *England.* [*Exit.*

King. Follow him,
Tempt him with speed aboard,
Delay it not, I'll have him hence to night:
Away, for every thing is seal'd and done
That else leans on the affair; "pray you make haste:
"And *England*, if my present love thou hold'st at ought,
"As my great power thereof may give thee sense,

Since

" Since yet thy Cicatrice looks raw and red
" After the *Danish* Sword, and thy free awe
" Pays homage to us, thou may'ſt not coldly ſet
" Our Soveraign proceſs, which imports at full
" By Letters congruing to that effect
" The preſent death of *Hamlet*, do it *England*,
" For like the Hectick in my blood he rages,
" And thou muſt cure me till I know 'tis done,
" How e'r my haps, my joys will ne'r begin. [*Exit.*

Enter Fortinbraſs *with his Army over the Stage.*

" *Fort.* Go, Captain, from me greet the *Danish* King,
" Tell him that by his Licence *Fortinbraſs*
" Craves the conveyance of a promis'd march
" Over his Kingdom; you know the rendezvous,
" If that his Majeſty would ought with us,
" We ſhall expreſs our Duty in his eye,
" And let him know ſo.

" *Capt.* I will do't, my Lord.

" *Fort.* Go ſoftly on.

Enter Hamlet, Roſencraus, *&c.*

" *Ham.* Good Sir, whoſe powers are theſe?

" *Capt.* They are of *Norway*, Sir.

" *Ham.* How propos'd, Sir, I pray you?

" *Capt.* Againſt ſome part of *Poland.*

" *Ham.* Who commands them, Sir?

" *Capt.* The Nephew of old *Norway*, *Fortinbraſs.*

" *Ham.* Goes it againſt the main of *Poland*, Sir,
" Or for ſome Frontier?

" *Capt.* Truly to ſpeak, and with no addition,
" We go to gain a little patch of Ground
" That hath in it no profit but the name,
" To pay five Duckets, five I would not farm it,
" Nor will it yield to *Norway* or the *Pole*
" A ranker rate, ſhould it be ſold in Fee.

" *Ham.* Why then the *Pollack* never will defend it.

" *Capt.* Nay, 'tis already garriſon'd.

" *Ham.* Two thouſand ſouls, and twenty thouſand Duckets
" Will not debate the Queſtion of this Straw;
" This is th' impoſthume of much wealth and peace,
" That inward breaks and ſhews no cauſe without
" Why the man dyes. I humbly thank you, Sir.

" *Capt.* God b'w'ye, Sir.

" *Roſ.* Wilt pleaſe you go, my Lord?

" *Ham.* I'll be with you ſtraight, go a little before.

" How all occasions do inform against me,
" And spur my dull revenge? What is a man
" If his chief good and market of his time
" Be but to sleep and feed? a Beast, no more.
" Sure he that made us with such large discourse,
" Looking before and after, gave us not
" That capability and God like reason
" To fust in us unus'd: now whether it be
" Bestial oblivion, or some craven scruple
" Of thinking too precisely on th' event,
" A thought which quarter'd hath but one part Wisdom,
" And ever three parts Coward: I do not know
" Why yet I live to say this thing's to do,
" Sith I have cause, and will, and strength, and means
" To do't: Examples gross as Earth exhort me,
" Witness this Army of such mass and charge,
" Led by a delicate and tender Prince,
" Whose spirit with Divine ambition puft
" Makes mouths at the invisible event,
" Exposing what is mortal and unsure
" To all that fortune, death, and danger dare,
" Even for an Egg shell. Rightly to be great
" Is not to stir without great Argument,
" But greatly to find quarrel in a Straw,
" When honour's at the stake. How stand I then,
" That have a Father kill'd, a Mother stain'd,
" Excitements of my reason and my blood,
" And let all sleep, while to my shame I see
" The imminent Death of twenty thousand men,
" That for a phantasie and trick of fame
" Go to their Graves like Beds, fight for a Plot
" Whereon the numbers cannot try the cause,
" Which is not Tomb enough and Continent
" To hide the slain? O from this time forth,
" My thoughts be bloody, or be nothing worth. [*Exit.*

Enter Horatio, Gertrard, *and a Gentleman.*

Queen. I will not speak with her.

Gent. She is importunate,
Indeed distracted and deserves pity.

Queen. What would she have?

Gent. She speaks much of her Father, says she hears
There's tricks i'th' World, and hems, and beats her heart,
Spurns enviously at Straws, speaks things in doubt,
That carry but half sense, her speech is nothing,

Yet

Yet the unſhaped uſe of it doth move
The hearers to collection, "they yawn at it,
"And botch the words up fit to their own thoughts,
"Which as winks, and nods, and geſtures yield them,
"Indeed would make one think there might be thought,
"Though nothing ſure, yet much unhappily,
Hora. 'Twere good ſhe were ſpoken with, for ſhe may ſtrew
Dangerous conjectures in ill-breeding minds.
Let her come in. [*Enter* Ophelia.
Qu. "To my ſick ſoul, as ſins true nature is,
"Each toy ſeems prologue to ſome great amiſs:
"So full of artleſs jealouſie is guilt,
"It ſpills it ſelf, in fearing to be ſpilt.
Ophel. Where is the beauteous Majeſty of *Denmark?*
Qu. How now *Ophelia?* [*She ſings.*
Ophel. How ſhould I your true love know from another one?
By his cockle hat and ſtaff, and by his ſendal ſhoon.
Qu. Alas, ſweet Lady, what imports this ſong?
Ophel. Say you, nay, pray you mark.
He is dead and gone, Lady, he is dead and gone, [*Song.*
At his head a graſs-green turf, at his heels a ſtone.
O ho.
Qu. Nay but *Ophelia.*
Ophel. Pray you mark. White his ſhroud as the mountain ſnow.
Enter King.
Qu. Alas, look here my Lord.
Ophel. Larded all with ſweet flowers, [*Song.*
Which beweept to the ground did not go,
With true love ſhowers.
King. How do you pretty Lady?
Ophel. Well, good dild you, they ſay the Owl was a Baker's daughter: we know what we are, but know not what we may be.
King. Conceit upon her Father.
Ophel. Pray let's have no words of this, but when they ask you what it means, ſay you this.
To morrow is S. *Valentine's* day, [*Song.*
All in the morning betime,
And I a Maid at your window
To be your Valentine. (door,
"Then up he roſe, and don'd his clothes, and dup't the Chamber
"Let in the Maid, that out a Maid never departed more.
King. Pretty *Ophelia.*
Ophel. Indeed, without an oath, I'll make an end on't.

By

By gis, and by Saint Charity,
alack, and fie for ſhame,
Young men will do't, if they come to't,
by cock they are to blame.
"Quoth ſhe, before you tumbled me, you promis'd me to wed.
"(He anſwers) So ſhould I have done, by yonder Sun,
And thou hadſt not come to my bed.

King. How long hath ſhe been thus?

Oph. I hope all will be well, we muſt be patient; but I cannot chuſe but weep, to think they would lay him i'th' cold ground; my brother ſhall know of it, and ſo I thank you for your good counſel. Come my coach, good night, Ladies, good night, Sweet Ladies, good night, good night.

King. Follow her cloſe, give her good watch I pray you. O this is the poiſon of deep grief, it ſprings all from her Father's death: and now behold O *Gertrard, Gertrard,*
When ſorrows come, they come not ſingle ſpies,
But in battalions: firſt, her Father ſlain,
Next, your ſon gone, and he, moſt violent author
Of his own juſt remove; the people muddied,
Thick, and unwholſome in thoughts and whiſpers
For good *Polonius* death, and we have done but
Obſcurely to interr him; poor *Ophelia*
Divided from her ſelf, and her fair judgment,
Without which we are but pictures, or meer beaſts.
Laſt, and as much containing as all theſe,
Her brother is in ſecret come from *France,*
Feeds on this wonder, keeps himſelf in clouds,
And wants not whiſpers to infect his ear
With peſtilent ſpeeches of his Father's death,
"Wherein neceſſity of matter begger'd
"Will nothing ſtick our perſon to arraign
"In ear-and ear:" O my dear *Gertrard,* this
Like to a murdering piece in many places
Gives me ſuperfluous death. [*A noiſe within.*

Enter Meſſengers.

King. Where are my Swiſſers? let them guard the door,
What is the matter?

Meſſeng. Save your ſelf, my Lord.
The Ocean over-peering of his liſt
Eats not the flats with more impetuous haſte
Than young *Laertes* in a riotous head
O're-bears your Officers; the rabble call him Lord,
And as the world were now but to begin,

Antiquity

Antiquity forgot, Cuſtom not known,
The Ratifiers and Props of every word,
They cry, Chuſe we *Laertes* for our King,
Caps, hands, and tongues applaud it to the Clouds,
Laertes ſhall be King.

" *Qu.* How cheerfully on the falſe tail they cry, [*A noiſe within.*
" O this is counter, you falſe *Daniſh* Dogs,

Enter Laertes *with others.*

King. The Doors are broke.

Laert. Where is this King? Sirs, ſtand you all without.

All. No, let's come in.

Laert. I pray you give me leave.

All. We will, we will.

Laert. I thank you, keep the Door. O thou vile King,
Give me my Father.

Queen. Calmly, good *Laertes.*

Laert. That drop of blood that's calm proclaims me Baſtard,
Cries Cuckold to my Father, brands the Harlot
Even here between the chaſte Brows
Of my true Mother.

King. What is the cauſe, *Laertes*,
That thy Rebellion looks ſo Giant-like?
Let him go, *Gertrard*, do not fear our perſon,
There's ſuch Divinity doth hedge a King,
That treaſon dares not reach at what it would,
Acts little of his will: tell me, *Laertes*,
Why thou art thus incens'd: let him go, *Gertrard*,
Speak man.

Laert. Where is my Father?

King. Dead.

Queen. But not by him.

King. Let him demand his fill.

Laert. How came he dead? I'll not be juggl'd with:
To Hell Allegeance, Vows to the blackeſt Devil,
" Conſcience and Grace to the profoundeſt pit,
" I dare damnation: " to this Point I ſtand,
That both the Worlds I give to negligence,
Let come what comes, only I'll be reveng'd
Moſt throughly for my Father.

King. Who ſhall ſtay you?

Laert. My will, not all the Worlds:
And for my means, I'll husband them ſo well,
They ſhall go far with little.

King. Will you in revenge of your

Dear Fathers death destroy both Friend and Foe?

Laert. None but his Enemies.

King. Will you know them then?

Laert. To this, good friends, thus wide I'll ope my arms,
And like the kind Life-rendring Pelican
Relieve them with my blood.

King. Why, now you speak
Like a good Child, and a true Gentleman.
That I am guiltless of your Fathers death,
And am most sensible in grief for it,
It shall as level to your judgment lye,
As day does to your eye. [*A noise within.*

Enter Ophelia.

Laert. Let her come in.
"How now? what noise is that?
"O heat dry up my brains, tears seven times salt
"Burn out the sense and Vistue of mine eye:
By Heaven "thy madness shall be paid with weight
Till our Scale turn the Beam. O Rose of *May*!
Dear Maid, kind Sister, sweet *Ophelia*!
O Heavens! is't possible a young Maids wits
Should be as mortal as a sick man's life!

Ophel. They bore him bare-fac'd on the Bier, [*Song.*
And in his Grave rain'd many a tear.
Fare you well, my Dove.

Laert. Had'st thou thy wits, and did'st perswade revenge,
It could not move thus.

Ophel. You must sing a down, a down,
And you call him a down a. O how the Wheel becomes it,
It is the false Steward that stole his Masters Daughter.

Laert. This nothing is much more than matter.

Ophel. There's Rosemary, that's for remembrance, pray you Love remember; and there's Pancies, that's for thoughts.

La. A document in madness, thoughts and remembrance fitted.

Ophel. There's Fennel for you, and Columbines, there's Rue for you, and here's some for me, we may call it Herb of Grace a *Sundays*, you may wear your Rue with a difference; there's a Daisie: I would give you some Violets, but they withered all when my Father dyed; they say he made a good end.
For bonny sweet *Robin* is all my joy.

Laert. Thoughts and affliction, passion, Hell it self
She turns to favour and to prettiness.

Ophel. And will he not come again? [*Song.*
"And will he not come again?

No, no, he is dead, go to thy Death-Bed,
He never will come again.
His Beard was as white as Snow,
Flaxen was his Pole,
He is gone, he is gone, and we caſt away moan,
And peace be with his ſoul and with all Lovers ſouls.

King. Laertes, I muſt ſhare in your grief,
Or you deny me right; Go but a part.
Make choice of whom your wiſeſt friends you will,
And they ſhall hear and judge 'twixt you and me,
If by direct or by collateral hand
They find us touch'd, we will our Kingdom give,
"Our Crown, our life, and all that we call ours
To you in ſatisfaction; but if not,
Be you content to lend your patience to us,
And we ſhall jointly labour with your ſoul
To give it due content.

Laert. Let this be ſo.
His means of Death, his obſcure Funeral,
No Trophee, Sword, nor Hatchment o'r his bones,
No noble right, no formal oſtentation
Cry to be heard as 'twere from Earth to Heaven,
That I muſt call't in Queſtion.

King. So you ſhall,
And where th' offence is, let the great Axe fall.
I pray you go with me. [*Exeunt.*

Enter Horatio *and others.*

Horat. What are they that would ſpeak with me?

Gen. Sea-fairing men, Sir, they ſay they have Letters for you.

Horat. Let them come in.
I do not know from what part of the World
I ſhould be greeted, if not from Lord *Hamlet*. [*Enter Sailers.*

Sail. Save you, Sir.

Sail. There's a Letter for you, Sir, it came from the Ambaſſador that was bound for *England*, if your name be *Horatio*, as I am let to know it is.

Hora. Horatio, when thou ſhalt have overlook'd this, give theſe Fellows ſome means to the King, they have Letters for him. E're we were two days old at Sea, a Pyrat of very warlike appointment gave us chaſe. Finding our ſelves too ſlow of Sail, we put on a compelled valor, and in the grapple I boarded them: on the inſtant they got clear of our Ship, ſo I alone became their Priſoner. They have dealt with me like Thieves of mercy, but they knew what they did; I am to do a turn for them. Let the

King have the Letters I have ſent, and repair thou to me with as much ſpeed as thou wouldſt fly death. I have words to ſpeak in thine Ear will make thee dumb, yet are they much too light for the matter: theſe good Fellows will bring thee where I am. *Roſencraus* and *Guildenſtern* hold their courſe for *England*, of them I have much to tell thee. Farewel. *Hamlet.*

Horat. Come, I will make you way for theſe your Letters,
And do't the ſpeedier that you may direct me
To him from whom you brought them. [*Exeunt.*

Enter King and Laertes.

King. Now muſt your Conſcience my Acquittance ſeal,
And you muſt put me in your heart for friend,
Sith you have heard, and with a knowing Ear,
That he who hath your noble Father ſlain
Purſued my Life.

Laert. It well appears: but tell me
Why you proceed not againſt theſe feats
So criminal and ſo capital in nature,
As by your ſafety, greatneſs, wiſdom, all things elſe,
You mainly were ſtir'd up.

King. For two ſpecial reaſons,
Which may perhaps to you ſeem weak,
But yet to me they're ſtrong: the Queen his Mother
Lives almoſt by his looks, and for my ſelf,
My Vertue or my Plague, be it either,
She is ſo precious to my life and ſoul,
That as the Star moves not but in his Sphere,
I could not but by her: the other motive,
Why to a publick count I might not go,
Is the great love the people bear him,
Who dipping all his faults in their affection,
Work like the Spring that turneth Wood to Stone,
" Convert his gyves Graces, ſo that my Arrows,
" Too ſlightly timbered for ſo loved arms,
" Would have reverted to my Bow again,
" But not where I have aim'd them.

Laert. And ſo I have a noble Father loſt,
A Siſter driven into deſperate terms,
Whoſe worth, if praiſes may go back again,
Stood Challenger on the Mount of all the Age
For her perfections: but my revenge will come.

King. Break not your ſleeps for that, you muſt not think
That we are made of Stuff ſo flat and dull,
That we can let our Beards be ſhook with danger,

And

And think it paſtime: you ſhortly ſhall hear more.
I lov'd your Father, and we love our ſelf,
" And that I hope will teach you to imagine.

Enter a Meſſenger with Letters.

Meſſ. Theſe to your Majeſty, this to the Queen.

King. From *Hamlet?* Who brought them?

Meſſ. Sailors, my Lord, they ſay, I ſaw them not;
They were given me by *Claudio*, he received them
Of him that brought them.

King. Laertes, you ſhall hear them: leave us. [*Exeunt.*
High and mighty, you ſhall know I am ſet naked on your Kingdom: to morrow ſhall I beg leave to ſee your Kingly eyes, when I ſhall (firſt asking you pardon) thereunto recount the occaſion of my ſudden return.

King. What ſhould this mean? are all the reſt come back?
Or is it ſome abuſe, and no ſuch thing?

Laert. Know you the Hand?

King. 'Tis *Hamlet*'s Character. Naked!
And in a Poſtſcript here he ſays alone,
Can you adviſe me?

Laert. I am loſt in it, my Lord; but let him come,
It warms the very ſickneſs in my heart,
That I live, and tell him to his teeth,
Thus didſt thou.

King. If it be ſo, *Laertes*,
As how ſhould it be ſo, how otherwiſe?
Will you be rul'd by me?

Laert. I, my Lord, ſo you will not o'r-rule me to a peace.

King. To thine own peace: if he be now returned,
As liking not his Voyage, and that he means
No more to undertake it, I will work him
To an exploit now ripe in my device,
Under the which he ſhall not chuſe but fall,
And for his death no Wind of blame ſhall breathe,
But even his Mother ſhall uncharge the practice,
And call it accident.

Laert. My Lord, I will be rul'd,
The rather if you could deviſe it ſo
That I might be the Inſtrument.

King. It falls right:
You have been talkt of ſince your travel much,
And that in *Hamlet*'s hearing, for a quality
Wherein they ſay you ſhine; your ſum of parts
Did not together pluck ſuch envy from him.

" As did that one, and that in my regard
" Of the unworthieſt ſiege.
Laert. What part is that, my Lord?
King. A very Feather in the Cap of Youth,
" Yet needful too, for Youth no leſs becomes
" The light and careleſs Livery that it wears,
" Than ſetled Age his Sables, and his Weeds,
" Importing health and graveneſs." two months ſince
Here was a Gentleman of *Normandy*,
I have ſeen my ſelf, and ſerv'd againſt the *French*,
And they can well on horſe-back; but this Gallant
Had Witchcraft in't, he grew into his Seat,
And to ſuch wondrous doing brought his Horſe,
As he had been incorps'd and demi-natur'd
With the brave Beaſt; ſo far he top'd my thought,
That I in forgery of ſhapes and tricks
Come ſhort of what he did.
Laert. A *Norman* was't?
King. A *Norman*.
Laert. Upon my life, *Lamord*.
King. The very ſame.
Laert. I know him well, he is indeed,
The Gem of all the Nation.
King. He made Confeſſion of you,
And gave you ſuch a maſterly report
For art and exerciſe in your defence,
And for your Rapier moſt eſpecially,
That he cry'd out, 'twould be a ſight indeed,
If one could match you: the Fencers of their Nation
He ſwore had neither motion, guard, nor eye,
If you oppos'd them: Sir, this report of his
Did *Hamlet* ſo envenome with his envy,
That he could nothing do, but wiſh and beg
Your ſudden coming o'r to play with you.
Now out of this.
Laert. What out of this, my Lord?
King. *Laertes*, was your Father dear to you?
Or are you like the painting of a ſorrow,
A face without a heart?
Laert. Why ask you this?
King. Not that I think you did not love your Father,
" But that I know love is begun by time,
" And that I ſee in paſſages of proof,
" Time qualifies the ſpark and fire of it;

There

" There lives within the very flame of love,
" A kind of Wick or Snuff that will abate it,
" And nothing is at a like goodneſs ſtill;
" For goodneſs growing to a Pleuriſie,
" Dies in his own too much, that we would do,
" We ſhould do when we would: for this *would* changes,
" And hath abatements and delays as many
" As there are tongues, are hands, are accidents,
" And then this *ſhould* is like a ſpend thrift-ſigh,
" That hurts by eaſing: " but to the quick of th' ulcer,
Hamlet comes back, what would you undertake
To ſhew your ſelf indeed your Fathers Son
More than in words?

Laert. To cut his throat i' th' Church.

King. No place indeed ſhould protect a Murderer,
Revenge ſhould have no Bounds: but, good *Laertes*,
Keep cloſe within your Chamber,
Hamlet return'd ſhall know you are come home,
We'll put on thoſe ſhall praiſe your excellence,
And ſet a double varniſh on the fame
The *French-man* gave you, bring you in fine together,
And wager o'r your heads; he being remiſs,
Moſt generous and free from all contriving,
Will not peruſe the foils, ſo that with eaſe,
Or with a little ſhuffling, you may chuſe
A Sword unbated, and in a pace of practice
Requite him for your Father.

Laert. I will do't;
And for the purpoſe I'll anoint my Sword:
I bought an Unction of a Mountebank
So mortal, that but dip a Knife in it,
Where it draws blood, no Cataplaſm ſo rare
Collected from all Simples that have Vertue
Under the Moon, can ſave the thing from death
That is but ſcratcht withal; I'll touch my Point
With this Contagion, that if I gall him ſlightly it may be death.

King. Let's further think of this,
" Weigh what conveyance both of time and means,
" May fit us to our ſhape, if this ſhould fail,
" And that our drift look through our bad performance,
" 'Twere better not aſſay'd. Therefore this project
" Should have a back or ſecond, that might hold
" If this did blaſt in proof: " ſoft, let me ſee,
We'll make a ſolemn Wager on your Cunnings,

I have't,

I have 't, when in your motion you are hot and dry,
As make your bouts more violent to that end,
And that he calls for Drink, I'll have prepar'd him
A Chalice for the purpoſe, whereon but taſting,
If he by chance eſcape your venom'd Tuck,
Our purpoſe may hold there. But ſtay, what noiſe? [*Enter Queen.*
Queen. One wo doth tread upon anothers heel,
So fait they follow: your Siſter's drown'd, *Laertes.*
Laert. Drown'd! O where?
Queen. There is a Willow growing o'r a Brook,
That ſhews his hoary Leaves in the Glaſſie Stream,
Near which fantaſtick Garlands ſhe did make
Of Crow flowers, Nettles, Daiſies, and long Purples,
" That liberal Shepherds give a groſſer name,
" But our culcold Maids do dead mens Fingers call them,
There on the Boughs her Coronet weeds
Clambring to hang, an envious Shiver broke,
When down her weedy Trophees and her ſelf
Fell in the weeping Brook, " her Cloaths ſpread wide,
" And Mermaid like a while they bore her up,
" Which time ſhe chanted remnants of old lauds,
As one incapable of her own diſtreſs,
Or like a Creature native and indued
Unto that Element; but long it could not be
Till that her Garments, heavy with their Drink,
Pull'd the gentle Maid from her melodious lay
To muddy death.
Laert. Alas! then is ſhe drown'd?
Queen. Drown'd, drown'd.
Laert. Too much of water haſt thou, poor *Ophelia*,
And therefore I forbid my tears; but yet
It is our trick, Nature her Cuſtom holds,
Let ſhame ſay what it will; " when theſe are gone
" The Woman will be out. " Adieu, my Lord,
I have a fire that fain would blaze,
But that this folly drowns it. [*Exit.*
King. Let's follow *Gertrard*;
How much I had to do to calm his rage!
Now I fear this will give it ſtart again,
Therefore let's follow. [*Exeunt.*

ACT

Act V. Scene I.

Enter two Clowns with Spades and Mattocks.

Clown. Is ſhe to be buried in Chriſtian Burial, when ſhe wilfully ſeeks her own ſalvation?

Oth. I tell thee ſhe is, therefore make her Grave ſtraight, the Crowner hath ſat on her, and finds it Chriſtian Burial.

Clown. How can that be, unleſs ſhe drown'd her ſelf in her own defence?

Oth. Why, 'tis found ſo.

Clown. It muſt be ſo offended, it cannot be elſe; for here lyes the Point, if I drown my ſelf wittingly, it argues an act; and an act hath three Branches, it is to act, to do, and to perform, or all; ſhe drown'd her ſelf wittingly.

Oth. Nay but hear you, Goodman Delver.

Clown. Give me leave, here lies the water, good; here ſtands the man, good; if the man go to this water and drown himſelf, it is will he nill he: he goes, mark you that; but if the water come to him and drown him, he drowns not himſelf; argal, he that is not guilty of his own death, ſhortens not his own life.

Oth. But is this Law?

Clown. I marry is't, Crowners Queſt Law.

Clown. Will you have the truth on't, if this had not been a Gentlewoman, ſhe ſhould have been buried without Chriſtian Burial.

Clown. Why, there thou ſayeſt, and the more pity that great Folk ſhould have countenance in this World to drown or hang themſelves more than we: Come, my Spade, there is no antient Gentleman but Gardeners, Ditchers and Grave-makers, they hold up *Adam*'s Profeſſion.

Oth. Was he a Gentleman?

Clown. He was the firſt that ever bore Arms.

I'll put another Queſtion to thee, if thou anſwereſt me not to the purpoſe, confeſs thy ſelf.

Clown. What is he that builds ſtronger than either the Maſon, the Shipwright, or the Carpenter?

Oth. The Gallows-maker, for that out-lives a thouſand tenants.

Clown. I like thy wit well, the Gallows does well, but how does it well? it does well to thoſe that do ill, now thou doeſt ill to ſay

the Gallows is built ſtronger than the Church: argal the Gallows may do well to thee. To't again, come.

Othel. Who builds ſtronger than a Maſon, a Shipwright, or a Carpenter?

Clown. I, tell me that and unyoke.

Oth. Marry now I can tell.

Clown. To't.

Oth. 'Maſs I cannot tell.

Clown. Cudgel thy Brains no more about it, for your dull Aſs will not mend his pace with beating, and when you are askt this Queſtion next, ſay a Grave-Maker, the houſes he makes laſt till Doomſ-day. Go get thee in and fetch me a Stoop of Liquor.

In Youth when I did love, did love, [*Song.*
Methought it was very ſweet
To contract, O the time for a my behove,
O methought there was nothing a meet.

Enter Hamlet *and* Horatio.

Ham. Has this Fellow no feeling in his buſineſs? He ſings in Grave-making.

Hor. Cuſtom hath made it in him a property of eaſineſs. (ſenſe.

Ham. 'Tis e'n ſo, the hand of little imployment hath the daintier

Clow. But Age with his ſtealing ſteps [*Song.*
hath claw'd me in his clutch,
And hath ſhipped me into the Land,
as if I had never been ſuch.

Ham. That Skull had a tongue in it, and could ſing once, how the Knave jowls it to the Ground, as if 'twere *Cain*'s Jaw-bone, that did the firſt murder: this might be the Pate of a Politician, which this Aſs now o'r-reaches, one that would circumvent Heaven, might it not?

Horat. It might, my Lord.

Ham. Or of a Courtier, which could ſay, Good morrow, my Lord, how doſt thou, ſweet Lord? this might be my Lord ſuch a one, that praiſed my Lord ſuch a ones Horſe when he meant to beg him, might it not?

Horat. I, my Lord.

"*Ham.* Why e'en ſo, and now my Lady worms Choples, and "knockt about the mazer with a Sextons Spade; "here's a fine revolution, and we had the trick to ſee't; did theſe bones coſt no more the breeding, but to play at Loggits with them? mine ake to think on't.

Clown. A Pick-Axe and a Spade, a Spade,
for and a ſhrowding Sheet,
O a Pit of Clay for to be made
for ſuch a Gueſt is meet.

Ham.

Ham. There's another, why may not that be the skull of a Lawyer? where be his quiddities now, his quillities, his cases, his tenures, and his tricks? why does he suffer this mad knave now to knock him about the sconce with a dirty shovel, and will not tell him of his actions of battery? hum: this fellow might be in's time a great buyer of land, with his statutes, his recognisances, his fines, his double vouchers, his recoveries, to have his fine pate full of fine dirt: will vouchers vouch him no more of his purchaces and doubles, than the length and bredth of a pair of Indentures? the very conveyances of his land will scarcely lie in this box, and must the inheritour himself have no more? ha!

Hora. Not a jot more, my Lord.

Ham. "Is not parchment made of sheep-skins?

Hora. "I my, Lord, and of calve-skins too.

Ham. "They are sheep and calves which seek out assurance in that." I will speak to this fellow: Whose grave's this, sirrah?

Clown. Mine, Sir, or a pit of clay for to be made.

Ham. I think it's thine indeed, for thou ly'st in't.

Clown. You lie out on't Sir, and therefore 'tis not yours: for my part I do not lie in't, yet it's mine.

Ham. Thou dost lye in't, to be in't, and say it is thine, 'tis for the dead, not for the quick, therefore thou lyest.

Clown. 'Tis a quick lye Sir, 'twill again from me to you.

Ham. What man dost thou dig it for?

Clown. For no man, Sir.

Ham. What woman then?

Clown. For none neither.

Ham. Who is to be buried in't?

Clown. One that was a woman, Sir, but rest her soul, she's dead.

Ham. How absolute the knave is, we must speak by the card, or equivocation will undo us. *Horatio*, this three years I have took notice of it, the age is grown so piequed, that the toe of the Peasant comes so near the heel of the Courtier, he galls his Kibe. How long hast thou been a Grave-maker?

Clown. Of all the days i'th' year I came to't that day that our last King *Hamlet* overcame *Fortinbras*.

Ham. How long is that since?

Clown. Cannot you tell that? every fool can tell that; it was that very day that young *Hamlet* was born, he that is mad and sent into *England*.

Ham. I marry, why was he sent into *England*?

Clown. Why? because he was mad, he shall recover his wits there, or if he do not 'tis no great matter there.

Ham. Why?

Clown. 'Twill not be ſeen in him there, there are men as mad as he. *Ham.* How came he mad?

Clown. Very ſtrangely they ſay.

Ham. How ſtrangely?

Clown. Faith e'en with loſing his wits.

Ham. Upon what ground?

Clown. Why, here in *Denmark*: where I have been Sexton, man, and boy, thirty years.

Ham. How long will a man lie i'th' earth e're he rot?

Clown. Faith if he be not rotten before he die, as we have many pocky Coarſes that will ſcarce hold the lying in, he will laſt you ſome eight years, or nine years: a Tanner will laſt you nine years.

Ham. Why he more than another?

Clown. Why, Sir, his hide is ſo tann'd with his trade, that he will keep out water a great while, and your water is a ſore decayer of your whorſon dead body: here's a skull now hath lien you i'th' earth, three and twenty years.

Ham. Whoſe was it?

Clown. A whorſon mad fellow's it was, whoſe do you think it was? *Ham.* Nay, I know not.

Clown. A peſtilence on him for a mad rogue, he pour'd a flaggon of Rheniſh on my head once; this ſame skull, Sir, was Sir *Yorick*'s skull, the King's Jeſter.

Ham. This?

Clown. E'en that.

Ham. Alas poor *Yorick*, I knew him, *Horatio*, a fellow of infinite jeſt, of moſt excellent fancy, he hath bore me on his back a thouſand times, and now how abhorred in my imagination it is? my gorge riſes at it. Here hung thoſe lips that I have kiſt I know not how oft: where be your jibes now, your jeſts, your ſongs, your flaſhes of merriment, that were wont to ſet the table on a roar? not one now to mock your own grinning? quite chop-faln? Now get you to my Ladies table, and tell her, let her paint an inch thick, to this favour ſhe muſt come; make her laugh at that.
Prethee, *Horatio*, tell me one thing.

Hora. What's that, my Lord?

Ham. Doſt thou think *Alexander* lookt on this faſhion i'th' earth? *Hora.* E'en ſo.

Ham. And ſmelt ſo? pah.

Hora. E'en ſo my Lord.

Ham. To what baſe uſes we may return *Horatio*! why may not imagination trace the noble duſt of *Alexander* till he find it ſtopping a bung hole.

Hora. 'Twere to conſider too curiouſly to conſider ſo.

Ham. No

Ham. No faith, not a jot but to follow him thither with modesty enough, and likelihood to lead it, *Alexander* died, *Alexander* was buried, *Alexander* returneth to duſt, the duſt is earth, of earth we make lome, and why of that lome whereto he was converted might they not ſtop a Beer-barrel?
Imperious *Ceſar* dead and turn'd to clay
Might ſtop a hole to keep the wind away.
O that, that earth which kept the world in awe,
Should patch a wall t'xpel the waters flaw!
But ſoft, but ſoft a while, here comes the King, *Enter King,*
The Queen, the Courtiers: who is this they follow, *Queen, La-*
And with ſuch maimed rites? this doth betoken, *ertes, and*
The Coarſe they follow did with deſperate hand *the Coarſe.*
Fore-do its own life, 'twas of ſome eſtate:
Stand by a while, and mark.

Laer. What Ceremony elſe?

Ham. That is *Laertes*, a very noble youth.

Laert. What Ceremony elſe?

Doct. Her obſequies have been as far inlarg'd
As we have warranty; her death was doubtful,
And but that great command o're-ſways the order,
She ſhould in Ground unſanctified been lodg'd:
For charitable prayers,
Flints and pebbles ſhould be thrown on her,
Yet here ſhe is allow'd her virgin rites,
Her maiden ſtrewments, and the bringing home
Of bell and burial.

Laer. Muſt there no more be done?

Doct. No more:
We ſhould prophane the ſervice of the dead,
To ſing a *Requiem*, and ſuch reſt to her,
As to peace parted ſouls.

Laer. Lay her i'th' earth,
And from her fair and unpolluted fleſh
May violets ſpring: I tell thee churliſh Prieſt,
A miniſtring Angel ſhall my ſiſter be,
When thou lieſt howling.

Ham. What? the fair *Ophelia*?

Qu. Sweets to the ſweet, farewel,
I hop'd thou ſhould'ſt have been my *Hamlet*'s wife,
I thought thy Bride-bed to have deckt, ſweet maid,
And not have ſtrew'd thy grave.

Laer. O treble woe!
Fall ten times double on that curſed head,

Whose wicked deeds deprived thee of
Thy most ingenuous sense: hold off the earth awhile,
Till I have caught her once more in mine arms.
Now pile your dust upon the quick, and dead,
Till of this flat a mountain you have made
T'ore-top old *Pelion*, or the skyish head
Of blue *Olympus*.

Ham. What is he, whose grief
Bears such an emphasis, whose phrase of sorrow
Conjures the wandring stars, and makes them stand
Like wonder-wounded hearers? 'tis I,
Hamlet the *Dane*.

Laer. Perdition catch thee.

Ham. Thou pray'st not well: I prethee take thy fingers from (my throat:
For though I am not spleenative and rash,
Yet have I in me something dangerous,
Which let thy wisdom fear; hold off thy hand.

King. Pluck them asunder.

Qu. Hamlet, Hamlet.

All. Gentlemen.

Hora. Good my Lord, be quiet.

Ham. Why, I will fight with him upon this theam,
Until my eye-lids will no longer wag.

Qu. O my son, what theam?

Ham. I lov'd *Ophelia*, forty thousand brothers
Could not with all their quantity of love
Make up my sum: What wilt thou do for her?

King. O he is mad, *Laertes*.

Qu. Forbear him.

Ham. Shew me what thou't do,
Wilt weep, wilt fight, wilt fast, wilt tear thy self,
Wilt drink up Esil, eat a Crocodile?
I'll do't; dost thou come here to whine?
To out-face me with leaping in her grave?
Be buried quick with her, and so will I;
And if thou prate of mountains, let them throw
Millions of acres on us, till our ground
Sindging his pate against the burning Zone,
Make *Ossa* like a wart; nay, and thou'lt mouth,
I'll rant as well as thou.

Qu. This is meer madness,
And thus a while the fit will work on him;
Anon as patient as a female Doe,
When first her golden couplets are disclos'd,

His

His ſilence will ſit drooping
Ham. Hear you, Sir,
What is the reaſon that you uſe me thus?
I lov'd you ever, but it is no matter,
Let *Hercules* himſelf do what he may,
The Cat will mew, a dog will have his day. [*Exit* Hamlet
King. I pray thee good *Horatio*, wait upon him. [*and* Horatio.
Strengthen your patience in our laſt nights ſpeech,
We'll put the matter to the preſent puſh,
Good *Gertrard*, ſet ſome watch over your ſon,
This Grave ſhall have a living monument,
" An hour of quiet thereby ſhall we ſee,
" Till then in patience our proceeding be. [*Exeunt.*

Enter Hamlet *and* Horatio.

Ham. So much for this, Sir, you ſhall now ſee the other:
You do remember all the circumſtance.
Hora. Remember it my Lord?
Ham. Sir in my heart there was a kind of fighting
That would not let me ſleep, " methought I lay
" Worſe than the mutines in the Bilboes, raſhly,
" And prais'd be raſhneſs for it; let us know
Our indiſcretion ſometimes ſerves us well
When our deep plots do fall, and that ſhould learn us,
There's a Divinity that ſhapes our ends,
Rough hew them how we will.
Hora. That is moſt certain.
Ham. Up from my Cabin,
My Sea-gown wrapt about me, in the dark
I grop'd to find out them, had my deſire,
Reach'd their packet, and in fine withdrew
To mine own room again, making ſo bold
(My fears forgetting manners) to unfold
Their grand Commiſſion, where I found, *Horatio*,
An exact command,
" Larded with many ſeveral ſorts of reaſons,
" Importing *Denmarks* health, and *Englands* too,
" With hoe, ſuch Bugs and Goblings in my life,
" That on the ſuperviſe, no leiſure bated,
" No, not to ſtay the grinding of the Ax,
My head ſhould be ſtruck off with.
Hora. Is't poſſible?
Ham. Here's the Commiſſion, read it at more leiſure:
But wilt thou hear now how I did proceed?
Hora. I beſeech you.

Ham. Be-

Ham. Being thus be-netted round with Villains,
E're I could make a Prologue to my Brains,
They had begun the Play: I ſate me down,
Devis'd a new Commiſſion, wrote it fair:
I once did hold it, as our Statiſts do,
A baſeneſs to write fair, and labour'd much
How to forget that Learning; but, Sir, now
It did me Yeomans ſervice; wilt thou know
Th' effect of what I wrote?

Horat. I, good my Lord.

Ham. An earneſt conjuration from the King,
As *England* was his faithful Tributary,
As love between them like the Palm might flouriſh,
As Peace ſhould ſtill her wheaten Garland wear,
" And ſtand a *Comma* 'tween their amities,
" And many ſuch like, as, Sir, of great charge,
That on the view of theſe contents,
Without debatement further more or leſs
He ſhould thoſe Bearers put to ſudden death,
" Not ſhriving time allow'd.

Horat. How was this ſeal'd?

Ham. Why, even in that was Heaven ordinant:
I had my Fathers Signet in my Purſe,
Which was the model of that *Daniſh* Seal,
Folded the Writ up in the form of th' other,
Subſcrib'd it, gave't th' impreſſion, plac'd it ſafely,
The Changling never known; now the next day
Was our Sea fight, and what to this was ſequent,
Thou know'ſt already.

Horat. So *Guildenſtern* and *Roſencraus* went to it.

Ham. They are not near my Conſcience, their defeat
Does by their own inſinuation grow;
" Tis dangerous when the baſer nature comes
" Between the Paſs and fell incenſed Point
" Of mighty Oppoſites.

Horat. Why, what a King is this!

Ham. Does it not, think you, ſtand me now upon?
He that hath kill'd my King, and whor'd my Mother,
Stept in between th' election and my hopes,
Thrown out his Angle for my proper life, [*Enter a*
And with ſuch cozenage, is't not perfect conſcience? (*Courtier.*

Court. Your Lordſhip is right welcome back to *Denmark.*

Ham. I humbly thank you, Sir,
Doeſt know this water flie?

Horat. No,

Hora. No, my good Lord.

Ham. Thy ſtate is the more gracious, for 'tis a vice to know him; he hath much land and fertil, let a beaſt be Lord of beaſts, and his Crib ſhall ſtand at the King's Meſs; 'tis a chough, but as I ſay, ſpacious in the poſſeſſion of dirt.

Court. Sweet Lord, if your Lordſhip were at leiſure, I ſhould impart a thing to you, from his Majeſty.

Ham, I will receive it, Sir, with all diligence of ſpirit; your bonnet to his right uſe, 'tis for the head.

Court. I thank your Lordſhip, 'tis very hot.

Ham. No, believe me, 'tis very cold, the wind is Northerly.

Court. It is indifferent cold, my Lord, indeed.

Ham. But yet, methinks, it is very ſoultry and hot, for my complexion.

Court. Exceedingly, my Lord, it is very ſoultry, as 'twere I cannot tell how. My Lord, his Majeſty bad me ſignifie unto you, that he has laid a great wager on your head, Sir; this is the matter.

Ham. I beſeech you remember.

Court. Nay, good my Lord, for my eaſe. Sir, here is newly come to Court *Laertes*, believe me, an abſolute Gentleman, full of moſt excellent differences, of very ſoft ſociety, and great ſhew: indeed, to ſpeak feelingly of him, he is the Card, or Kalendar of Gentry, for you ſhall find in him the ſubſtance of what part a Gentleman would ſee.

Ham. Sir, his definement ſuffers no loſs in you, though I know to divide him inventorially, would dizzy th' arithmetick of memory, and yet but raw neither in reſpect of his quick ſail; but in the verity of extolment I take him to be a ſoul of great article, and his infuſion of ſuch dearth and rareneſs, as to make true diction of him, his ſemblable is his mirrour, and who elſe would trace him, his umbrage, nothing more.

Court. Your Lordſhip ſpeaks moſt infallibly of him.

Ham. The concernancy, Sir, why do wrap the Gentleman in our rawer breath?

Court. Sir.

Hora. Is't poſſible not to underſtand in another tongue, you will do't, Sir, really.

Ham. What imports the nomination of this Gentleman?

Court. Of *Laertes*?

Hora. His purſe is empty already, all's golden words are ſpent.

Ham. Of him, Sir.

Court. I kow you are not ignorant.

Ham. I would you did, Sir; yet if you did, it would not much approve me: well Sir.

Court. You are ignorant of what excellence *Laertes* is.

Ham. I dare not confess that, leſt I ſhould compare with him in excellence; but to know a man well, were to know himſelf.

Court. I mean, Sir, for his Weapon; but in the imputation laid on him by them in his meed, he's unfellowed.

Ham. What's his Weapon?

Court. Single Rapier.

The King, Sir, hath wager'd with him ſix *Barbary* Horſes, againſt the which he has impawn'd, as I take it, ſix *French* Rapiers and Poniards, with their Aſſigns, as Girdle, Hanger, and ſo: three of the Carriages are very dear to fancy, very reſponſive to the Hilts, moſt delicate Carriages, and of very liberal conceit.

Ham. What call you the Carriages?

Horat. I knew you muſt be edified by the Margin e're you had done.

Court. The Carriages, Sir, are the Hangers.

Ham. The Phraſe would be more German to the matter, if we could carry a Cannon by our ſides, I would it might be Hangers till then: but on, ſix *Barbary* Horſes againſt ſix *French* Swords, their Aſſigns, and three liberal conceited Carriages, that's the *French* Bett againſt the *Daniſh*, why is this all you call it?

Court. The King, Sir, hath laid, Sir, that in a dozen Paſſes between your ſelf and him, he ſhall not exceed you three Hits, he hath laid on twelve for nine, and it would come to immediate tryal, if your Lordſhip would vouchſafe the Anſwer.

Ham. How if I anſwer no?

Court. I mean, my Lord, the oppoſition of your perſon in tryal.

Ham. Sir, I will walk here in the Hall, if it pleaſe his Majeſty, it is the breathing time of the day with me, let the foils be brought, the Gentleman willing, and the King hold his purpoſe, I will win for him if I can; if not, I will gain nothing but my ſhame and the odd Hits.

Court. Shall I deliver you ſo?

Ham. To this effect, Sir, after what flouriſh your nature will.

Court. I commend my Duty to your Lordſhip.

Ham. Yours does well to commend it ſelf, there are no tongues elſe for his turn.

Horat. This Lapwing runs away with the Shell on his head.

Ham. "He did ſo, Sir, with his Dug before he ſuckt it;" thus has he and many more of the ſame breed that I know, the droſſie Age dotes on, only get the tune of the time, and out of an habit of encounter, a kind of miſty Collection, which carries them through and through the moſt prophane and renowned Opinions; and do but blow them to their tryal, the bubbles are out.

Enter

Enter a Lord.

Lord. My Lord, his Majeſty commended him to you by young *Oſtrick*, who brings back to him that you attend him in the Hall, he ſends to know if your pleaſure hold to play with *Laertes*, or that you will take longer time?

Ham. I am conſtant to my purpoſes, they follow the Kings pleaſure; if his fitneſs ſpeaks, mine is ready, now or whenſoever, provided I be ſo able as now.

Lord. The King and Queen and all are coming down.

Ham. In happy time.

Lord. The Queen deſires you to uſe ſome gentle entertainment to *Laertes* before you go to play.

Ham. She well inſtructs me.

Horat. You will loſe, my Lord.

Ham. I do not think ſo, ſince he went into *France* I have been in continual practice; I ſhall win at the odds: thou wouldeſt not think how ill all's here about my heart, but it is no matter.

Horat. Nay, good my Lord.

Ham. It is but foolery, but it is ſuch a kind of boding as would perhaps trouble a Woman.

Horat. If your mind diſlike any thing, obey it, I will foreſtal their repair hither, and ſay you are not fit.

Ham. Not a whit, we defie Augury, "there is a ſpecial provi-
"dence in the fall of a Sparrow: if it be, 'tis not to come; if it
"be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will
"come; the readineſs is all, ſince no man of ought he leaves knows
"what 'tis to leave betimes, let be.

A Table prepared, Drums, Trumpets, and Officers with Cuſhions, King, Queen, and all the State, Foils, Daggers, and Laertes.

King. Come, *Hamlet*, come and take this hand from me.

Ham. Give me your pardon, Sir, I have done you wrong,
But pardon't as you are a Gentleman: this preſence knows,
And you muſt needs have heard how I am puniſh'd
With a ſore diſtraction; what I have done
That might your nature, honour and exception
Roughly awake, I here proclaim was madneſs.
Was't *Hamlet* wrong'd *Laertes?* Never *Hamlet*;
If *Hamlet* from himſelf be ta'en away,
And when he's not himſelf does wrong *Laertes*,
Then *Hamlet* does it not, *Hamlet* denies it:
Who does it then? His madneſs: If't be ſo,
Hamlet is of the faction that is wronged,
His madneſs is poor *Hamlet*'s Enemy;
Let my diſclaiming from a purpos'd evil,

Free me ſo far in your moſt generous thoughts,
That I have ſhot my Arrow o'r the Houſe,
And hurt my Brother.

Laert. I am ſatisfied in nature,
Whoſe motive in this Caſe ſhould ſtir me moſt
To my revenge, " but in my terms of Honour
" I ſtand aloof, and will no reconcilement,
" Till by ſome elder Maſters of known honour
" I have a Voice and Precedent of peace
" To my name ungor'd, but all that time "
I do receive your offered Love like Love,
And will not wrong it.

Ham. I embrace it freely, and will this Brothers Wager
Frankly play.
Give us the Foils.

Laert. Come, one for me.

Ham. I'll be your Foil, *Laertes*, in mine ignorance
Your skill ſhall like a Star i' th' darkeſt night
Appear.

Laert. You mock me, Sir.

Ham. No, on my honour.

King. Give them the foils, young *Oſtrick*: Couſin *Hamlet*,
You know the wager.

Ham. Very well, my Lord:
Your Grace has laid the odds o'th' weaker ſide.

King. I do not fear it, I have ſeen you both,
But ſince he is better, we have therefore odds.

Laert. This is too heavy, let me ſee another.

Ham. This likes me well, theſe foils have all a length?

Oſtr. I, my good Lord.

King. Set me the ſtoops of wine upon the table;
If *Hamlet* give the firſt or ſecond hit,
Or quit in anſwer of the third exchange,
Let all the Battlements their Ordnance fire;
The King ſhall drink to *Hamlet*'s better breath,
And in the Cup an Onyx ſhall be throw
Richer than that which four ſucceſſive Kings
In *Denmark*'s Crown have worn. Give me the Cups,
And let the Kettle to the Trumpet ſpeak,
The Trumpet to the Cannoneer without,
The Cannons to the Heavens, the Heavens to Earth.
Now the King drinks to *Hamlet*: Come, begin, And you the Judges bear a wary eye. } *Trumpets the while.*

Ham. Come on, Sir.

Laert.

Laert. Come, my Lord.

Ham. One.

Laert. No.

Ham. Judgment.

Oſtr. A Hit, a very palpable Hit. { *Drums, Trumpets, and Shot, Flouriſh, a Piece goes off.*

Laert. Well again.

King. Stay, give me drink, *Hamlet*, this Pearl is thine,
Here's to thy Health: give him the Cup.

Ham. I'll play this bout firſt, ſet it by a while.
Come, another Hit, what ſay you?

Laert. I do confeſs't.

King. Our Son ſhall win.

Queen. He's fat and ſcant of breath.
Here, *Hamlet*, take my Handkerchief, wipe thy brows:
The Queen ſaluts thy Fortune, *Hamlet*.

Ham. Good Madam.

King. *Gertrard*, Do not drink.

Queen. I will, my Lord; I pray you pardon me.

King. It is the poyſon'd Cup, it is too late.

Ham. I dare not drink yet, Madam, by and by.

Queen. Come, let me wipe thy face.

Laert. My Lord, I'll hit him now.

King. I do not think 't.

Laert. And yet 'tis almoſt againſt my Conſcience.

Ham. Come, for the third, *Laertes*, you do but dally;
I pray you paſs with your beſt violence.
I am ſure you make a Wanton of me.

Laert. Say you ſo? Come on.

Oſtr. Nothing neither way.

Laert. Have at you now.

King. Part them, they are incens'd.

Ham. Nay, come again.

Oſtr. Look to the Queen there, Ho.

Horat. They bleed on both ſides; how is't, my Lord?

Oſt. How is't, *Laertes?*

Laert. Why, as a Woodcock in my own Springe, *Oſtrick*,
I am juſtly kill'd with mine own treachery.

Ham. How does the Queen?

King. She ſwounds to ſee them bleed.

Queen. No, no, the Drink, the Drink, O my dear *Hamlet*,
The Drink, the Drink, I am poyſoned.

Ham. O Villain! Ho, let the Door be lock'd,
Treachery, ſeek it out.

Laert. It is here, *Hamlet*; thou art ſlain,

No Medicine in the World can do thee good,
In thee there is not half an hour's life,
The treacherous Instrument is in my hand,
Unbated and envenom'd, the foul practice
Hath turn'd it self on me; so here I lye
Never to rise again: thy Mother's poyson'd,
I can no more, the King, the King's to blame.

Ham. The Point envenom'd too! then venom to thy work.

All. Treason! Treason!

King. O yet defend me, Friends! I am but hurt.

Ham. Here thou incestuous *Dane*,
" Drink off this Potion: is the Onyx here?
Follow my Mother.

Laert " He is justly serv'd, it is a poyson temper'd by himself.
Exchange forgiveness with me, Noble *Hamlet*,
Mine and my Fathers death come not upon thee,
Nor thine on me. [*Dies.*

Ham. Heaven make thee free of it, I follow thee:
I am dead, *Horatio*, wretched Queen farewel.
You that look pale and tremble at this chance,
That are but Mutes or Audience to this act,
Had I but time, (as this fell Sergeant Death
Is strict in his Arrest) O I could tell you;
But let it be: *Horatio*, I am dead,
Thou liv'st, report me and my Cause aright
To the unsatisfied.

Horat. Never believe it.
I am more an antick *Roman* than a *Dane*,
Here's yet some Liquor left.

Ham. As th' art a man,
Give me the Cup, let go, I'll have't:
O *Horatio*, what a wounded name,
Things standing thus unknown, shall I leave behind me?
If thou didst ever hold me in thy heart,
Absent thee from felicity a while,
And in this harsh World draw thy breath in pain,
To tell my Story: what warlike noise is this? [*A march a-far off.*

Enter Ostrick.

Ostr. Young *Fortinbras* with Conquest come from *Poland*,
Th' Ambassadors of *England* give this warlike Volley.

Ham. O, I dye, *Horatio*,
The potent poyson quite o'r-grows my spirit;
I cannot live to hear the News from *England*,
But I do prophesie the Election lights

On

On *Fortinbraſs*; he has my dying Voice,
So tell him, with th' occurrents more and leſs
Which have ſollicited: the reſt in ſilence.
Horat. Now cracks a noble heart, good night, ſweet Prince,
And Choires of Angels ſing thee to thy reſt.
Why does the Drum come hither?

Enter Fortinbraſs *with the Ambaſſadors.*

Fort. Where is this ſight?
Horat. What is it you would ſee?
If ought of woe or wonder, ceaſe your ſearch.
Fort. "This quarry cries on havock:" O proud death,
What Feaſt is toward in thine infernal Cell,
That thou ſo many Princes at a ſhot
So bloodily haſt ſtrook.
Ambaſſ. The ſight is diſmal,
And our Affairs from *England* come too late,
The ears are ſenſleſs that ſhould give us hearing.
To tell him his Commandment is fulfill'd,
That *Roſencraus* and *Guldenſtern* are dead,
Where ſhould we have our thanks?
Horat. Not from his mouth,
Had it th' ability of breath to thank you;
He never gave Commandment for their death.
But ſince ſo apt upon this bloody Queſtion,
You from the *Pollack* Wars, and you from *England*
Are here arrived, give order that theſe Bodies
High on a Stage be plac'd to publick view,
And let me ſpeak to the yet unknowing World,
How theſe things came about; ſo ſhall you hear
Of cruel, bloody, and unnatural acts,
Of accidental judgments, caſual ſlaughters,
Of deaths put on by cunning, and for no cauſe,
And in this upſhot, purpoſes miſtook,
Fall'n on th' Inventors heads: all this can I
Truly deliver.
Fortin. Let us haſte to hear it,
And call the Nobleſs to the audience:
For me, with ſorrow I embrace my fortune,
I have ſome rights of memory in this Kingdom,
Which now to claim my intereſt doth invite me.
Horat. Of that I ſhall have alſo cauſe to ſpeak,
And from his mouth whoſe voice will draw no more:
But let this ſame be preſently perform'd,
Even while mens minds are wild, leſt more miſchance

On plots and errors happen.

Fort. "Let four Captains
Bear *Hamlet* like a Souldier to the Stage,
For he was likely, had he been put on,
T'have prov'd most royal: and for his passage,
The Souldiers Musick and the Rights of War
Speak loudly for him.
Take up the bodies: such a light as this
Becomes the Field, but here shews much amiss.
"Go bid the Souldiers Shoot.

[*Exeunt.*

FINIS.